



CME on Esophageal and Laryngopharyngeal Cancers

The Association of Oncologists of Northeast India (AONEI), supported by the Indian Association of Surgical Oncology (IASO) conducted a one day Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program for Doctors on June 10th, 2017 at the Hotel Pinewood, Shillong. Meghalaya has the highest incidence of Esophageal cancers and hence the topics discussed were on Esophageal and Laryngeal cancers. Nearly 90 doctors attended the program, said Dr. Caleb Harris, the organizing secretary and the Surgical Oncologist at NEIGRIHMS.

The program started in the afternoon, with a talk on Epidemiology of Cancers in India by Dr. Judita Syiemlieh, Civil Hospital, Shillong, which was followed by talks on Laryngeal cancers. Dr. Devendra Chaukar, head of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, elaborated the various surgical options in laryngeal cancers. There was a panel discussion which covered aspects of laryngeal cancers not covered by the speakers.

Dr. D.M. Thappa, Director, NEIGRIMS said in his inaugural address that a 252 bed Regional Cancer Centre is being constructed, due to be completed in October 2019, which will have state of the art facilities for cancer care. Dr. A.C. Phukan, the Dean of NEIGRIHMS stressed on the need to improve cancer care in this region, which has a high incidence of cancers. Dr. R. Toprani, Secretary of IASO said the membership has increased to over 1100 and that even general surgeons who deal with cancers may become members of the association. Dr. A. K. Kalita, President of AONEI stressed on the need for Radiotherapy equipment at NEIGRIHMS.

Dr. George K., Thoracic Surgeon from the Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai, said that though surgery is the mainstay of treatment for esophageal cancer, most of our patients come with advanced disease, needing Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy prior to surgery. This was reiterated by Dr Sarbani Ghosh Laskar, Professor of Radiation Oncology, TMH. Dr. Ravi Kannan, Director, Cachar Cancer Centre, Silchar elaborated on the various steps that can be taken to prevent these cancers, the most important being the cessation of use of tobacco, alcohol and betel nut.

A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Ritesh Tapkire, Surgical Oncologist, Silchar, solved all the contentious issues in managing esophageal cancer. Dr. Prasanth Penumadu, Surgical Oncologist, JIPMER, conducted a quiz for resident doctors, with an innovative format based on an app based voting! Cash prizes were given to four of the winners. The CME ended with dinner and entertainment.