

Advanced Cancer Screening Course: An Offer to Improve the Quality of Cancer Education

Shahram Paydar^{*,**}, Behnam Dalfardi^{*,****}

^{*}Trauma Research Center, Shahid Rajaei (Emtiaz) Trauma Hospital, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

^{**}Department of General Surgery, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

^{***}Student Research Committee, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

Dear Editor

With advancements in oncology, cancer screening and management methods will change and improve over time. Therefore, physicians involved with cancer care and research cannot limit themselves to their previous education. Physicians need to continuously update their knowledge; otherwise, outdated or even incorrect medical advice given to patients will be inevitable. Accordingly, there is a strong need for systematic cancer training programs.

As a tried and successful example in this context, we may highlight the *Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)* Course which presents a concise approach for assessing and managing multiple-injury patients. Developed by the American College of Surgeons more than a quarter century ago, the course has been adopted by one million physicians in more than 60 countries.^{1,2}

By using this approach as a model, each training course about cancer

can be held over a period from 15 to 25 hours. Courses will address the most recently approved and essential knowledge concerning different aspects of cancer, such as pathophysiology, diagnosis and screening, management, and the potential pitfalls of clinical practice. The emphasis should be on recognizing the most common manifestations of prevalent cancers and the strategic approach to these cancers as well as cancer screening and follow-up. The content manual for such courses can be arranged based on the geographical distribution and prevalence of malignancies. This course needs to be re-evaluated and updated every three to five years. In addition, the manuals prepared for teaching during the course should be provided to physicians for pre-course study. Attendance every four to six years at these courses should be mandatory for all physicians involved in the issue of cancer, either in the form of in-person or distance training [Continuing Medical Education

♦Corresponding Author:

Behnam Dalfardi, M.D.
Student Research Committee,
Shiraz University of Medical
Sciences, Shiraz, Iran
Tel: +98-913-2483359
E-mail: Dalfardibeh@gmail.com

(CME)]. These educational courses will be helpful, mainly to the general practitioners in developing countries, where the lack of structured oncology training programs and limited access to educational courses developed by institutions in developed countries is greatly present.^{3,4} We suggest the title of Advanced Cancer Screening Course (ACSC) for this educational program.

Conflict of interest

No conflict of interest is declared.

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