

A POPULATION BASED SURVEY OF GENERAL CANCER AWARENESS IN RURAL ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

In the present survey it was an attempt to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices in the rural population of Andhra Pradesh pertaining to various aspects of cancer among males and females so that it form a baseline for further interventional studies.

OBJECTIVES

The present survey aimed to provide information on beliefs on general awareness of cancer causes, risk factors, warning signs and incidence among rural population of Andhra Pradesh (AP)

METHODOLOGY

A statewide representative sample of 869 Indians aged 20 or older were asked about their perception about various risk factors associated with cancer, sign and symptoms as well as their general belief in relation to cancer incidence, as a part of an population based Survey. Interviews were conducted with 869 participants (188 men and 681 women) to determine the knowledge about the common cancers in the region, their signs and risk factors.

RESULTS

The general awareness, knowledge of signs and risk factors of the cancers considered were found to be low. 70% of respondents were not able to correctly name the commonest cancer in males and females

CONCLUSION

The study revealed lower general awareness and knowledge of the signs and risk factors of the common cancers in the region. These points to the need for greater emphasis on these aspects in the various public education programmes and increasing the awareness in masses by collaborative action of public health specialists and health professionals