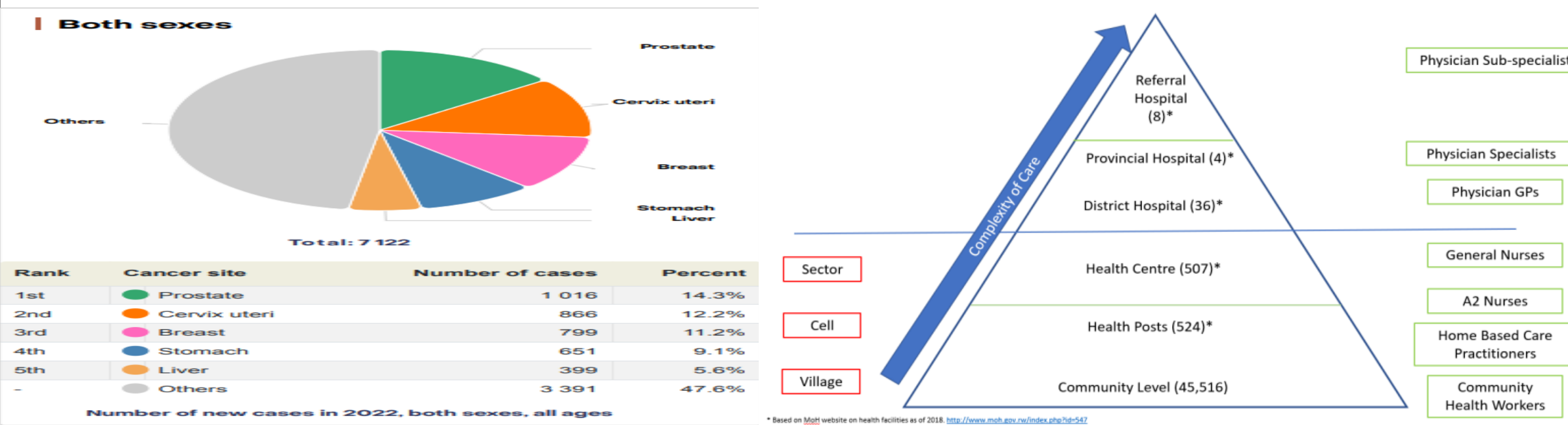


1. Medcancer initiative Rwanda

Background

In 2020, cancer was the second leading cause of death, accounting for 10 million deaths worldwide. Rwanda has seen a rise in cancer cases, with 10,704 reported in 2018. However, there is low awareness of cancer and its preventive measures among the population, especially in vulnerable areas. Many cancer cases in Rwanda are diagnosed at a late stage, which worsens the life of patients. To address these challenges, we aim to empower individuals and communities by raising awareness about cancer, promoting early diagnosis, facilitating access to effective treatment options, and advocating for preventive measures.



Methods

Medcancer is currently engaged in various activities aimed at raising awareness about cancer in Rwanda. These activities include the preparation of educational cancer radio talks, early screening options, and capacity building sessions for health care students. Medcancer also plans to organize large gatherings of the population where they will provide information on cancer preventive measures. Specifically, Medcancer is targeting the community umuganda program in Huye district, as well as other locations. Additionally, Medcancer is working to improve cancer research among young individuals in Rwanda by assisting them in preparing research proposals and reviews.

Results

Medcancer has successfully engaged 65 young individuals to advocate for cancer awareness. Capacity building sessions have been conducted for both members and students at the University of Rwanda, particularly at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences. Additionally, Medcancer has raised awareness about cancer among young individuals through Radio Salus, a radio station that broadcasts throughout Rwanda. Future activities of Medcancer Initiative Rwanda aim to increase cancer awareness to at least 80% of the population, especially those in remote areas.



Conclusion

Medcancer Initiative Rwanda is making significant strides in raising awareness about cancer, promoting early diagnosis, and advocating for preventive measures in Rwanda.

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