

APPENDIX A

Dear Doctor,

We are conducting a survey among various physicians and surgeons of Venkateshwar Hospital, Dwarka, who play an important role in the comprehensive management of cancer patients. This survey is being done to assess the awareness about Radiation Oncology (radiotherapy) facility in the hospital and the general perception about radiotherapy as a modality among non-radiation oncology physicians.

This is a semi-anonymous survey and you are not required to write your name but few of your general details. This questionnaire contains 30 questions which will take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete. You are requested to read each question carefully and answer accordingly.

Please mark a tick in front of the chosen answer. In few questions you can mark more than one option.

Survey Questionnaire

Specialty:

Designation:

Years post-MBBS completion:

1. Do you regularly see cancer patients in your daily practice?
 - a. no
 - b. rarely
 - c. often
 - d. very frequently
2. Do you have any kind of training in radiation oncology?
 - a. none
 - b. self acquired knowledge
 - c. informal training
 - d. formal training as part of curriculum
3. Are you aware of any oncology facility available in your neighborhood/area?
 - a. no
 - b. not sure
 - c. up to some extent
 - d. yes
4. Are you aware of the existence of department of radiation oncology in your hospital?
 - a. no
 - b. Yes
5. Are you aware of the exact location of radiation oncology department in your Premises?
 - a. no
 - b. if yes, please specify the location:
6. Are you aware of the facilities/services available in the radiation oncology department?
 - a. no
 - b. not sure
 - c. up to some extent
 - d. yes, for sure
7. Have you ever visited the department personally?
 - a. no
 - b. yes
8. Do you think that visiting the department may be hazardous to the visitor?
 - a. no
 - b. yes
 - c. Not sure
9. Are you aware of the latest technology (like IMRT, IGRT, VMAT) in the field of radiation oncology?
 - a. no
 - b. not sure
 - c. up to some extent
 - d. yes
10. Are you aware of the difference between teletherapy and brachytherapy?
 - a. no
 - b. yes
11. Which of the following activities are carried out in department of rad oncology? (multiple answers allowed)
 - a. radiation treatments
 - b. chemotherapy
 - c. procedures involving nuclear scans
 - d. daycare
 - e. Inpatient services
12. Which of the following machines are available in department of rad oncology? (multiple answers allowed)
 - a. cobalt-60
 - b. linear accelerator
 - c. cyberknife
 - d. electron therapy
 - e. proton therapy
 - f. brachytherapy
13. Do you think that radiation is required and effective only in advanced and untreatable cases of cancer?
 - a. no
 - b. yes
14. Do you agree that the latest radiotherapy technologies has the potential to improve the cancer treatment outcome?
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neither agree nor disagree
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
15. How many cancer patients (your perception) require radiotherapy in their overall cancer management?
 - a. <25%
 - b. 25-50%
 - c. 50-75%

- d. >75%
e. Not Sure
16. How many patients (your perception) achieve the treatment goals after radiotherapy?
a. <25%
b. 25-50%
c. 50-75%
d. >75%
e. Not Sure
17. Do you agree that the modern radiotherapy treatments are cost-effective?
a. Strongly agree
b. Agree
c. Neither agree nor disagree
d. Disagree
e. Strongly disagree
18. Do you agree that radiation oncology should be considered as one of the core department in a tertiary care hospital like ours?
a. Strongly agree
b. Agree
c. Neither agree nor disagree
d. Disagree
e. Strongly disagree
19. Do you agree that radiotherapy plays definitive role (equivalent or better than surgery) in radical treatment for certain cancers?
a. Strongly agree
b. Agree
c. Neither agree nor disagree
d. Disagree
e. Strongly disagree
20. Do you agree that radiotherapy is the single most effective treatment in certain oncological emergencies?
a. Strongly agree
b. Agree
c. Neither agree nor disagree
d. Disagree
e. Strongly disagree
21. Do you agree that radiotherapy is underutilized as a treatment modality in cancer patients?
a. Strongly agree
b. Agree
c. Neither agree nor disagree
d. Disagree
e. Strongly disagree
22. In which of the following situations you would consider radiotherapy for symptom management in your cancer patients? (multiple answers allowed)
a. Bone pain
b. Brain metastases
c. Spinal cord compression
d. Haemoptysis
e. Superior vena caval obstruction
f. Vaginal or rectal bleed
23. Do you refer your cancer patients for radiotherapy?
a. no
b. rarely
c. frequently
d. often
24. Have you ever referred your patients outside since you were not aware of the facility/technique available in-house?
a. no
b. yes
25. What do you think is the commonest indication for referrals to radiotherapy?
a. Definitive treatments
b. Adjuvant (post-op)
c. Neo-adjuvant (pre-op)
d. palliative
26. What do you think are the potential barriers to your consideration of radiotherapy in cancer patients? (please rank them 1 to 10, 1 being the most important factor)
a. concern regarding side effects of radiation
b. personal lack of knowledge regarding indications and process of radiotherapy
c. long waiting lists
d. too traumatic/inconvenient for patients and family
e. patient or family's reluctance
f. uncertainty regarding effectiveness of the treatment
g. costs involved in radiation treatment
h. short life expectancy of the cancer patients
i. patient may lose contact with the primary caregiver once he is referred for RT
j. lack of communication with the radiation oncologists
27. Have you ever come across any harmful side effects of radiation that have discouraged you from considering it for your patients?
a. no
b. yes
c. If yes, please mention.....
28. Have you ever come across any brochure, leaflet or presentation regarding radiation facility in any hospital?
a. no
b. yes
29. Would you like to know more about the subject through small presentations or CMEs?
a. no
b. may be
c. yes, but I lack time
d. yes, of course

30. What do you think are the factors which can improve the referrals in radiotherapy? (multiple answers allowed)
- a. More awareness among primary caregivers regarding radiation oncology
 - b. Better communication with the radiation oncologists
 - c. Referral of patients back to primary caregiver after radiotherapy
 - d. Counseling of patients and families
 - e. More clear practice guidelines

Thanks a lot for your time and patience.