

**BARRIERS TO TAKE RADIOTHERAPY
SERVICE AMONG CANCER PATIENTS IN
YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

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M.B.,B.S

Master of Hospital Administration (MHA)

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ABSTRACT

Radiotherapy is integral to the treatment of cancer. The accessibility and coverage of radiotherapy service are important in patient's outcome. The aim of this study is to describe the barriers to take radiotherapy service among cancer patients. This cross sectional study was conducted among 89 cancer patients taking radiotherapy treatment in Yangon General Hospital by face to face interview. Regarding socio-demographic characteristic of patients, most of the patients were within working age group, female, low education level and had more than two family members. Nearly half of the patients were unemployed and per capita income was below 150,000 mmk per month. Concerning diagnosis, cervical cancer patients were the most of study population and about half of the patients did not know their cancer stage. In this study, 75% of the patients were residence of Yangon Region. The residence of patients were significantly associated with the presence of barrier. The travel time and the travel distance relating with patient's residence were also associated with barrier. Moreover, it was found that patients who lived away from home had more barriers than others. There was financial burden in 50% of the patients. In this study, there was significant association between the affordability of the cost and the barrier. The median of total waiting time was 142 days. In this study, only 20% of the patients had difficulties in registration process but most of the patients satisfy the service of Radiation Oncology Department in Yangon General Hospital. More than half of the patients had good perception on basic amenities of hospital. In this study, we can conclude that the geographic factor with travel burden and travel related financial burden are barriers to take radiotherapy. To scale up radiotherapy service in line of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), more investment in radiotherapy should be made to meet the accessibility of patients.