

About TNNCD (Oncology) Project

(Project for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu)

It is a four-year technical cooperation project (2022-2026), implemented by the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu jointly with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) team, and funded by JICA. It aims to strengthen the government's capacity for cancer prevention and control.

Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Early Diagnosis Intervention in Coimbatore District

Preparatory workshop at the state level

A workshop on Colorectal Cancer (CRC) early diagnosis was organized on February 20th, 2024, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The workshop aimed to reinforce the CRC intervention plan with 44 state and district level participants including government health administrators and medical practitioners.

CRC Early Diagnosis Intervention

One of the Project components is to strengthen early diagnosis of CRC for patients presenting CRC suspicious signs and symptoms at government health facilities. Coimbatore district is selected as a pilot district. It is planned in two phases ((1) first phase in selected areas and (2) scale up phase for the entire district).



Thiru. M Govinda Rao I.A.S. Project Director, addressing opening remarks

The workshop commenced with the opening remarks by the Project Director, Thiru. M Govinda Rao I.A.S., and the Director of the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Dr Selvavinayagam. They underscored the escalating prevalence of CRC with the majority presenting at the advanced stage and stressed the urgency of strengthening the efforts to curb the CRC devastating impact. Participants went

through the

global and regional CRC epidemiological trends and reviewed clinical protocol for early diagnosis at the primary level and patient referral system which were developed by the Project to be introduced in the government health facilities. Finally, the effective training methods for the primary level doctors and nurses on the CRC clinical protocol and patient referral system were discussed.



Discussion on training methods

In essence, the workshop served as a pivotal platform for fostering collective understanding and

action for the CRC intervention in Coimbatore.



Workshop participants

Training of medical doctors and nurses for the first phase

The training of medical doctors at the primary level and staff nurses at all levels was conducted for the first phase of the intervention in Coimbatore district from the end of March to early April 2024.

A total of four batches of one-day training involved 39 medical doctors and 23 staff nurses



CRC protocol (first phase version)

CRC protocol

It is a clinical protocol for the medical doctors at the primary level to effectively identify the patients presenting with certain signs and symptoms of CRC and refer them to the higher facilities for further examination. CRC patient referral slip and register are also developed.

in

the north zone of the Coimbatore Corporation, Thondamuthur Block, and Pollachi Municipality and North and South Blocks. Participants were taken through the sessions on the CRC disease burden, CRC clinical aspect, CRC protocol, and patient referral system. A session on the CRC protocol included group discussion on various case scenarios to stimulate participants on how to apply the newly developed CRC protocol effectively. Many of them enjoyed the interactive session and actively participated in the

discussion. A number of practical suggestions were made by the participants to ensure adequate care to be given to patients at the referred facilities and effective follow-up of the referred patients.



Discussion with medical doctors and staff nurses

Orientation of the relevant departments/personnel at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital and Pollachi and Thondamuthur Government Hospitals was also conducted to sensitize them on the intervention to receive referred patients adequately.

The CRC protocol will be practised once the necessary tools are in place at the government facilities in the abovementioned areas. Activity to promote public awareness of CRC will be also initiated during the first phase.



Orientation at Thondamuthur GH