

Challenges With Implementation Of Radiotherapy Services The Case Of Zimbabwe

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Background

About Zimbabwe

- Population 13.061 million
- Annual cancer incidence -6-7,000 cases
- Radiotherapy (RT) facilities
 2 centres
- RT machines 1 per 2.6 million population
- Life expectancy 58 years

Map of Zimbabwe



The Milestones of RT in Zimbabwe



Second Milestone 60Cobalt and 1st Linac, low dose-rate brachytherapy, superficial and deep X-ray therapy phased out

Start of RT Superficial and deep X-ray therapy, therapy

X-ray therapy, therapy technician training only

1990s

New additions

Introduction of radiation oncology training and introduction of high dose-rate brachytherapy, conventional C.T. simulator, 2D radiotherapy treatment planning system



Setback Period

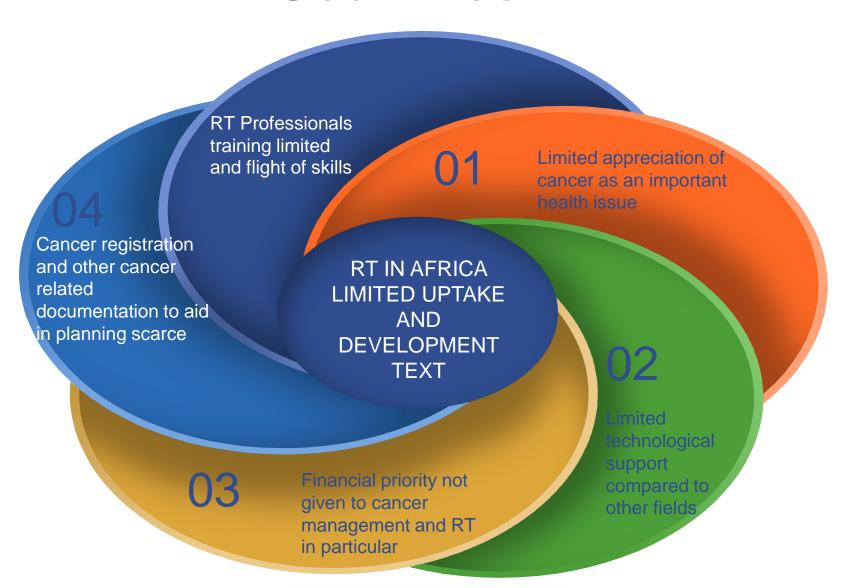
New RT Services

New state-of-the-art equipment in both centres, 2D to 3D conformal radiotherapy transition, 60Cobalt phased out, increased treatment capacity, improved brachytherapy techniques, Introduction of medical physics training

How Was it Accomplished?



Challenges for RT in African Countries



Conclusion



- Approximately 7,000 new cases of cancer are registered annually in Zimbabwe.
- Still only 2,000 of these have access to cancer treatment facilities due to various reasons.
- Whilst capacity building in radiotherapy is important in contributing towards cancer care, full implementation of a comprehensive national cancer control program will ensure full access to cancer care.



Thank you!

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