

Limits to Epidemiology

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Abstract

Cancer is one of the most dangerous and common diseases diagnosed among different categories of people worldwide. This article will focus on the role and importance of cancer epidemiology helping people to be more aware of the causes and factors leading to the development of the disease. The researchers mostly focus on the analysis of cancer and cervical cancers providing general and useful information applicable to other types of cancers. Franco et al. (2004) stated that constant updating of the knowledge base was “a dynamic and open process ensuring timely discovery of carcinogens and appropriate preventive actions” (p. 424).

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The title of the article under analysis is appropriate and clear, and the abstract is specific and representative of the article providing the main idea of the writing and helping people to

understand the author's messages and points of view. The research question was associated with the study of cancer epidemiology and assessment helping to reduce risks of cancer among patients of different age in the community. The study design was qualitative research examining genetic issues, limitations of molecular studies, the role and the nature of cancer epidemiology, etc.

The researchers found that people used different approaches to evaluate carcinogenicity trying to avoid cancer risks in the community, as well as to increase the quality of the national health on the part of the general population. Controlled observations of such risks might simply help people to understand the epidemiology of the disease reducing the incidence of additional problems and concerns in the community. This research might act as the background for the future successful cooperation between epidemiologists and scientists working in this field inspiring much confidence, stability and better health among different groups of people.

The researchers focused on two most popular and widely known kinds of cancer, stomach and cervical cancers causing great numbers of deaths and suffering on a regular basis worldwide. People should analyze various segments and sides of the problem and disease in order to escape future possible consequences and problems arising on the part of the patients helping people to undergo such problems and consequences changing their life for better and maintaining better health.

The purpose of the article was made clear in the introduction preparing the readers for the general discussion and involving individuals into the process of analysis and evaluation. All of the discussion was relevant and specific, as the researchers succeeded to combine theory with practice explaining the study design and nature of the research problem properly and correctly. Due to the fact that the researchers did not select subjects in some specific area, the results of the

research might be considered over-generalized not having some specific background for the discussion and analysis.

One of the strengths of the present article is associated with its division into several sections helping to focus on specific problems and topics in detail not mixing everything together. Besides, the authors cited only pertinent literature and provided references for the material used in the article showing the credibility of the citations and information provided in the article under analysis. The exposure to the disease and the nature of the disease are associated with certain factors and causes affecting people's health and general well-being causing conflicts with people and other problems in their life.

Obsolete methods and evidence used to analyze and treat cancer were replaced by the innovative technological advances and approaches in this field, and researchers succeeded to highlight and analyze some of these approaches increasing people's awareness and understanding of these issues. Molecular epidemiology is now rather popular and widely used in this medical field helping medical professionals to save patient's life and health returning them to the normal life and activity in the community. The lack of the proper knowledge and information in this field really prevent people from success and self-confidence believing in the future recovery.

The researchers used many medical terms and concepts which may not be understood by ordinary individuals, and this is the weakness of the research, as the article may be read by people having cancer and wanting to find some way-out from this problem. The statements and ideas of the researchers were not sometimes clear or easily understood, especially by people not having some connection with medicine. Franco et al. (2004) highlighted certain markers leading to cancer development on the part of individuals being "as diverse as measurement of agents in

the body, of DNA or protein adducts, of mutations in blood and other cells, and of chromosomal damage” (p. 417).

The measurement of DNA adducts is the critical process helping to understand the causes of cancer and direct their further treatment and maintenance of their disease. The researchers did not only highlight the benefits of certain approaches but also the weaknesses and limitations helping people to make the right choice. The limitation of molecular epidemiology was associated with the idea that it measured and evaluated the recent exposure to cancer, but in the majority of cases, patients diagnosed cancer on the serious stage when cancer developed for decades.

Further on, the researchers examined the nature and role of genetic susceptibility to cancer, again using more general factors and information not focusing on the specific sample group or nations. Cancer causation is rather an interesting and effective field for the understanding of cancer development and analysis. Medical professionals and scientists should analyze people’s heredity, environmental factors, and surely biological issues explaining the diagnosis and understanding people’s state of health properly and correctly.

The researchers examined only gastric and cervical cancers, and the further research is needed covering other types of cancers experienced by people living in different parts of the world. Not depending on the useful and valuable information and data provided in the article, this information is still more generalized and less specific preventing people from the proper understanding of the problem and awareness of their diagnosis and factors leading to this disease. The lack of the needed information and people’s awareness on the issue might bring additional problems and concerns for people suffering different types of cancer.

The great number of people are diagnosed with cancers every day, and this disease is

caused by different factors having strictly individual factors. The researchers showed different approaches helping to understand the epidemiology of cancers helping people to be prepared for the diagnosis and understand the factors leading to the development of this disease. The prevention is always better and more effective than treatment, and people living in the modern society should be aware of these approaches escaping future challenges and troubles related to cancers.

Reference

Franco, E.L., et al. (2004). Role and limitations of epidemiology in establishing a causal association. *Seminars in Cancer Biology*, 14, 413-426.