< Invited Talk >

Breast cancer and Medical Anthropology: A novel therapeutics ahead

Dr. Walaa Saad Hanafy, Msc, PhD

Biological Anthropology Department, Medical Research Division, National Research Centre, Cairo, Egypt (Affiliation ID: 60014618)



Background:

Breast cancer (BC) is now ranked the most common cancer worldwide¹. Incidence of breast cancer varies remarkably among different ethnicities where breast cancer transition has been observed from developed countries toward Asia and Africa². In Egypt, it is the most common malignancy among womanhood and accounts for 32 % of cancer in women³. In Asian, especially in Japan and Singapore the change of life style and improvement of the living standard lead to increase the secular trend of breast cancer mortality⁴. Among the risk factors to develop cancer in general, infectious agents are known to be the third highest after tobacco usage and obesity contributing to about 15–20% of BC incidence⁵. BC therapy is in urgent need for novel preventive and curative approaches with more safety than the present one seems inevitable. Medical anthropology is a multi-disciplinary approach to the medical sciences and humanities where this approach consists of the history of diseases, studying the anatomical characteristics of individuals as well the molecular variations in the immune systems, the anthropometric measurements (physical anthropology), designing regional guidelines for management of disease⁷.

References

- The online GLOBOCAN 2018 database at http://gco.iarc.fr/, as part of IARC's Global Cancer Observatory.
- Mubarik S et al. Recent insights into breast cancer incidence trends among four Asian countries using age-period-cohort model. Cancer Manag Res. 2019; 11:8145–8155.

Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering in Health Systems Okayama University

3.1.1 Tsushima-Naka, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-8530, Japan



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