

# Response to the Editorial Titled "Cancer Registry - What is the Need to be Attentive and Why Now?"

Sir,

The editorial titled "Cancer Registry - What is the Need to be Attentive and Why Now?" is featured in the Journal of College and Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan, Volume 33, Issue 5, which was published in May 2023.<sup>1</sup> The authors have attempted to summarise the information on cancer registration in Pakistan. Dr. Bhurgri's 1999 report on cancer in the Karachi South district is referenced in the fourth paragraph, along with a 2009 report on the Karachi Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine, a 2019 report from the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission's Cancer Registry, and a more recent report from the Karachi Cancer Registry. However, the papers released by the Punjab Cancer Registry (PCR), which has been operational since 2005, are not included. The PCR has released at least four publications on cancer registration. The most recent paper on population-based cancer registration in Lahore, Pakistan, was published by the PCR in 2021 and spans a 10-year period from 2010 to 2019. It is the only publication in the country to present cancer statistics at the population level over a 10-year timeframe.<sup>2</sup> Without acknowledging this publication, the editorial lacks consistency.

## COMPETING INTEREST:

The author declared no competing interest.

## AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION:

FB: Reviewed the editorial and responded to it.

## REFERENCES

1. Arif A, Qureshi H. Cancer Registry - What is the need to be attentive and why now? *J Coll Phys Surg Pak* 2023; **33(5)**:489-90. doi: 10.29271/jcpsp.2023.05.489.
2. Badar F, Mahmood S. Cancer in Lahore, Pakistan, 2010-2019: an incidence study. *BMJ Open* 2022; **11(8)**: e047049. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-047049.

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## AUTHOR'S REPLY

Sir,

The initial references on Bhurgri *et al.* followed by the Karachi Institute of Radiology are both referring to the data from Karachi. As the article in the journal was also about the progress of the Karachi Cancer Registry (KCR) over the last few years, therefore it was thought pertinent to discuss first the KCR. This was followed by the AEMC report which reported data from all over Pakistan and then other registries. Punjab Cancer Registry (PCR) is one of the largest registries in the country that is collecting data since early 2000s on cancer trends from Punjab. This registry along with other large registries have been referred to and acknowledged at the end of the editorial because these are well-established, large, and well-known registries which do not need an introduction. Hope this clarifies the concern.

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