

Cancer Evidences Dates Back to Millions of years in Ancient Egyptian and German Sites

According to Dr Mohandas K. Mallath of Tata Medical Institute, Kolkata, and Dr. Robert Smith of Kings College, London, India's cancer burden is on continuous increase despite improved access to cancer diagnostics in rural India. The research study has also found that most of the cancer indices among Indians can be attributed to epidemiological transitions.

The cancer documentation has begun only after Western medical practices like biopsy pathological tests entered India. However, no paleoncology reports of cancer have been documented in Indus valley- or Deccan Chalcolithic sites except for some benign osteomas. Ancient Indian medical classics have been paid modest attention to cancer diseases, which could also be attributed to low prevalence of the disease in ancient times.

The study published in the Journal of Global Oncology claims that evidences of cancer has been collected from historic sites in Egypt and Germany which dates back to millions of years. The evidences of cancer in early humans have been documented from review of 154 studies dating back to 1.8 million years.

Reference:

1. Smith, R. D., & Mallath, M. K. (2019). History of the Growing Burden of Cancer in India: From Antiquity to the 21st Century. Journal of global oncology, 5, 1-15.

Dr. Bilqeesa Bhat
Project Scientist,
bhat.bilqeesa3000@gmail.com