



UNDERSTANDING THE GLOBAL CANCER CARE GAP



World Cancer Day
4 February

Close the care gap

For the last three years, the call-to-action of World Cancer Day — **“Close the Care Gap”** — has focused on health equity challenges.

It is estimated that 50-60% of patients with cancer will need radiotherapy⁸. Radiotherapy provides excellent local tumor control and is used to cure localized disease, palliate symptoms, and control disease in incurable cancer. There are serious limitations worldwide in the availability of radiotherapy services. Even in some high-income countries such as Canada, Australia and the UK, access to radiotherapy facilities and equipment is still inadequate due to lack of investment.

While advances in treatment technologies have dramatically enhanced treatment capabilities, leading to celebrated improvements in outcomes across many countries, much of the global population has thus far been left out of this cancer care revolution:

TREMENDOUS GAPS IN ACCESS TO TREATMENT RESOURCES

14,875 linear accelerators globally^{1*}

63% are in high-income countries

28% are in middle-income countries

ONLY 9% are in low-income countries

High-income countries only account for <20% of the global population

80%

of the world's patients with cancer have access to only **5%** of global radiotherapy resources.²

30 countries still have **NO RADIOTHERAPY TREATMENT CENTERS.**³ Half of these countries are in Africa

* Figures as of 2022

ACCESS GAPS PRODUCE OUTCOME DISPARITIES⁴

In 2020,

70%

of the almost 10 million cancer-related deaths worldwide were in

LOW-AND-MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVAL RATES⁵

High-Income Countries:

> 80% of children are cured

Low-Income Countries

< 30% of children are cured

GROWING CANCER BURDEN WILL MAGNIFY EQUITY ISSUES⁶

By 2040:

Low-Human Development Index (HDI) Countries

96%

increase in cancer cases



High-Human Development Index (HDI) Countries

32%

increase in cancer cases

MAJOR DISPARITIES WITHIN DEVELOPED NATIONS, TOO⁷



> 70%

of U.S. counties have

NO MEDICAL ONCOLOGISTS

40%

of Americans living in rural areas say they

LACK REASONABLE ACCESS TO CANCER SPECIALISTS

CLOSING RADIOTHERAPY ACCESS GAPS COULD SAVE

1 MILLION LIVES ANNUALLY⁸

Close the care gap

Important Safety Statement:

Most side effects of radiotherapy, including side effects delivered with Accuray systems, are mild and temporary, often involving fatigue, nausea, and skin irritation. Side effects can be severe, however, leading to pain, alterations in normal body functions (for example, urinary or salivary function), deterioration of quality of life, permanent injury, and even death. Side effects can occur during or shortly after radiation treatment or in the months and years following radiation. The nature and severity of side effects depend on many factors, including the size and location of the treated tumor, the radiation technique (for example, the radiation dose), and the patient's general medical condition, to name a few. For more details about the side effects of your radiation therapy, and to see if treatment with an Accuray product is right for you, ask your doctor.

Sources:

- Maitre P, Krishnatry R, Chopra S, Gondhowardjo S, Likonda BM, Hussain QM, Zubizarreta EH, Agarwal JP. Modern Radiotherapy Technology, Obstacles and Opportunities to Access in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. JCO Glob Oncol. 2022 Jul;8:e2100376. doi: 10.1200/JGO.21.00376. PMID: 35839434; PMCID: PMC9812473.
- Court L, Aggarwal A, Burger H, Cardenas C, Chung C, Douglas R, du Toit M, Jaffray D, Jhingran A, Mejia M, Mumme R, Muya S, Naidoo K, Ndumbalo J, Nealon K, Netherton T, Nguyen C, Olanrewaju N, Parkes J, Shaw W, Trauernicht C, Xu M, Yang J, Zhang L, Simonds H, Beadle BM. Addressing the Global Expertise Gap in Radiation Oncology: The Radiation Planning Assistant. JCO Glob Oncol. 2023 Jul;9:e2200431. doi: 10.1200/JGO.22.00431. PMID: 37471671; PMCID: PMC10581646.
- https://ncdalliance.org/resources/closing-the-cancer-divide-a-blueprint-to-expand-access-in-low-and-middle-income-countries-by-the-global-task-force-on-expanded-access-to-cancer-care
- https://www.cancer.org/about-us/our-global-health-work/global-cancer-burden.html
- https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer-in-children
- https://www.wcrf.org/differences-in-cancer-incidence-and-mortality-across-the-globe/#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20new%20cases,in%20very%20high%20HDI%20countries.
- Kenamond MC, Mourad WF, Randall ME, Kaushal A. No Oncology Patient Left Behind: Challenges and Solutions in Rural Radiation Oncology. Lancet Reg Health Am. 2022 Sep;13:100289. doi: 10.1016/j.lana.2022.100289. Epub 2022 Jun 3. PMID: 35692288; PMCID: PMC9170528.
- Atun R, Jaffray DA, Barton MB, Bray F, Baumann M, Vikram B, Hanna TP, Knaut FM, Lievens Y, Lui TY, Milosevic M, O'Sullivan B, Rodin DL, Rosenblatt E, Van Dyk J, Yap ML, Zubizarreta E, Gospodarowicz M. Expanding Global Access to Radiotherapy. Lancet Oncol. 2015 Sep;16(10):1153-86. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(15)00222-3. PMID: 26419354.