

This section of the journal serves to highlight the works and researches done by local doctors or doctors either in Brunei Darussalam or in collaborations with other centres that have been published in regional or international journals. This also includes works published as part of collaboration with centres outside of Brunei Darussalam. These works include review articles, original articles and case reports published between 15th December 2015 to 14th February 2016. (Some publications have been published or indexed at a later date after publication ahead of print).

Gastric Cancer and Paraneoplastic Pemphigus.

Basir N, Telisinghe PU, Chong VH.

Indian J Surg. 2015 Dec;77(6):545-6. doi: 10.1007/s12262-015-1311-y. Epub 2015 Jul 5.

ABSTRACT

Paraneoplastic pemphigus is a relatively rare but significant acquired autoimmune mucocutaneous disorder that is characterised by diffuse erythema, painful blistering and sores of the skin and mucous membranes. The underlying pathogenesis is believed to be triggered by altered immune system in response to underlying neoplasm. The manifestations can predate, occur at the same time or after the diagnosis of cancer. Associations with gastric cancer have only been reported twice. A 78-year-old lady presented with a month's history of extensive skin lesions that started off as bullous lesions and biopsy revealed bullous pemphigus. Endoscopy for anemia revealed gastric cancer. This case reinforced the need to consider underlying malignancy in elderly patient with new onset dermatological presentation.

Correspondence: Chong VH. Department of Medicine, RIPAS Hospital, Bandar Seri Begawan BA 1710, Brunei Darussalam. E mail: chongvuih@yahoo.co.uk

Chronic Splenic Abscess as the First Manifestation of Pancreatic Tail Tumor.

Chong VH, Abdullah MS, Sangkarakumar S, Mathew VV, Telisinghe PU.

Indian J Surg. 2015 Dec;77(Suppl 3):1504-5. doi: 10.1007/s12262-014-1137-z. Epub 2014 Jul 8.

ABSTRACT

Pancreatic carcinoma is still associated with a poor survival due to the late presentation. Excluding head of pancreas tumor, manifestations are often vague resulting in delayed diagnosis. Manifestations as infective complications are rare, and in topic

countries where infection remains common, diagnosis will be further delayed. We report a rare case of pancreatic tail carcinoma that manifested as chronic splenic abscess.

Correspondence: Chong VH. Department of Medicine, RIPAS Hospital, Bandar Seri Begawan BA 1710, Brunei Darussalam. E mail: chongvuih@yahoo.co.uk

Electronic Health Object: Transforming Health Care Systems From Static to Interactive and Extensible.

Almunawar MN, Anshari M, Younis MZ, Kisa A. Inquiry. 2015 Dec 8;52. pii: 0046958015618665. doi: 10.1177/0046958015618665. Print 2015

ABSTRACT

Electronic health records (EHRs) store health-related patient information in an electronic format, improving the quality of health care management and increasing efficiency of health care processes. However, in existing information systems, health-related records are generated, managed, and controlled by health care organizations. Patients are perceived as recipients of care and normally cannot directly interact with the system that stores their health-related records; their participation in enriching this information is not possible. Many businesses now allow customers to participate in generating information for their systems, strengthening customer relationships. This trend is supported by Web 2.0, which enables interactivity through various means, including social networks. Health care systems should be able to take advantage of this development. This article proposes a novel framework in addressing the emerging need for interactivity while preserving and extending existing electronic medical data. The framework has 3 dimensions of patient health record: personal, social, and medical dimensions. The framework is designed to empower patients, changing their roles from static recipient of health care services to dynamic and active partners in health care processes.

Note: Collaboration between local institution and overseas centres

Spectrum of cancers among South Asians working in Brunei Darussalam.

Chong VH, Telisinghe PU, Chong CF.
South Asian J Cancer. 2016 Jan-Mar;5(1):12-4.
doi: 10.4103/2278-330X.179697.

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Worldwide the incidence of cancers is increasing and this seen more in developing nations. This study looks at the spectrum of cancers among South Asian nationals working in Brunei Darussalam, a developing Southeast Asia nation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The cancer registry from 1994 to 2012 maintained by the State Laboratory was retrospectively reviewed.

RESULTS: Over the period, there was a total of 123 cancer cases diagnosed among South Asians, giving an incidence of 1.5% ($n = 123/8253$). The mean age at diagnosis was 42.9 ± 17.1 with a gender ratio of (male 60; female 63). Among the South Asians, Indians accounted for the most (53.7%) cases, followed by Nepalese (39.8%), Pakistani (3.3%) and Sri Lankan (2.4%). The most common cancers were cancers of the female reproductive/gynecologic organs, gastrointestinal tract, and breast. Among the two major ethnic groups; cancers of the breast was the most common among Indians followed by gastrointestinal tract where among the Nepalese, these were gastrointestinal tract followed by gynecologic (esp. cervical cancers). Among the South Asian, the Nepalese were younger at diagnosis compared to the other groups.

CONCLUSION: The spectrum of cancers among South Asian residing in Brunei is comparable to what have been reported from South Asia with the exception of lung cancers. The most common cancers were cancers of female reproductive/gynecologic organs, gastrointestinal tract and breast. South Asians were younger at diagnosis of cancers compared to non-South Asians.

Correspondence: Chong VH. Department of Medicine, RIPAS Hospital, Bandar Seri Begawan BA 1710, Brunei Darussalam. E mail: chongvuih@yahoo.co.uk

A murine model of acute myeloid leukemia with Evi1 overexpression and autocrine stimulation by an intracellular form of GM-CSF in DA-3 cells.

Cardona ME, Simonson OE, Oprea II, Moreno PM, Silva-Lara MF, Mohamed AJ, Christensson B, Gahrton G, Dilber MS, Smith CI, Arteaga HJ.
Leuk Lymphoma. 2016;57(1):183-92.
doi: 10.3109/10428194.2015.1043547. Epub 2015 Jun 18.

ABSTRACT

The poor treatment response of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) overexpressing high-risk oncogenes such as EVI1, demands specific animal models for new treatment evaluations. Evi1 is a common site of activating integrations in murine leukemia virus (MLV)-induced AML and in retroviral and lentiviral gene-modified HCS. Still, a model of overt AML induced by Evi1 has not been generated. Cell lines from MLV-induced AML are growth factor-dependent and non-transplantable. Hence, for the leukemia maintenance in the infected animals, a growth factor source such as chronic immune response has been suggested. We have investigated whether these leukemias are transplantable if provided with growth factors. We show that the Evi1 (+)DA-3 cells modified to express an intracellular form of GM-CSF, acquired growth factor independence and transplantability and caused an overt leukemia in syngeneic hosts, without increasing serum GM-CSF levels. We propose this as a general approach for modeling different forms of high-risk human AML using similar cell lines.

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