

What is the cost of cancer in South Africa?



The cost of cancer can be measured in Rands and cents, but it also has a human cost as lives are forever altered and communities are affected.

In South Africa, an ***incomplete National Cancer Registry*** (NCR) means that we don't have an accurate idea of how many people have cancer.



The NCR measures the ***incidence of cancer***, not the prevalence, so forecasting the ***projected disease burden*** is difficult.

The ***research commissioned by the Cancer Alliance*** showed that the cancer incidence is ***expected to double*** to 160 000 cases per year by 2030.



We have data that shows the cost of cancer treatment ***in the public*** and private sectors in 2019, and we predict that ***an extra R50 billion will be needed by 2030***. More than double that amount is currently being spent on medical legal claims.

Providing adequate and equitable cancer care is a ***human rights imperative***, enshrined in our Constitution, and upheld in international agreements South Africa has signed.



But ***we are failing*** to provide standardised, quality cancer care in our inequitable, two-tier health system. There is a chasm between policies and implementation, and we still do not have an approved Cancer Control Plan.

The ***cancer continuum of care*** is necessary for effective management of the disease but ***we are falling short***. Primary and secondary prevention, timely screening, diagnosis, referral pathways, therapies, palliative care and adequate training of skilled healthcare providers are lacking.



But there is hope. This report is a ***call to action***. Together we can ***ReThink-ReDesign-ReEngineer*** and ***#LeaveNoOnebehind***



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Collective Voices for Cancer in South Africa