**INTRODUCTION**

- The Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology Progress Research Group defines AYA cancers as occurring in the 15-39 age group.
- AYA is a rubric between the pediatric & adult ages.
- Recently being recognized as a distinct health niche field with unique epidemiology, cancer biology, risk factors, and treatment implications.
- Massive socio-economic impact on the most economically-productive age-group.
- No significant improvement in treatment strategies & outcomes, especially in low- & middle-income countries (LMICs).
- A paucity of well-collated high-quality data from LMICs.

**AIM & OBJECTIVES**

- Descriptive analysis burden of AYA cancers from a sizeable rural teaching hospital in South India.
- Demographic & site distribution, and primary diagnosis were noted.
- Compare with the published data from National Cancer Registry Program.

**MATERIALS & METHODS**

- Descriptive analysis of all AYA cancers registered at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, India between January 2019 to December 2021.
- Medical records were accessed after institutional ethics board clearance.
- 7973 patients were diagnosed with cancer from January 2019 to December 2021.
- 8311.23% occurred in the AYA age group.
- Demographic characteristics like age & sex distribution, geographic distribution, site of cancer, and primary diagnosis were analysed & collated.

**DISCUSSION**

- Globally in 2018, 1.2 million cancer cases & 400,000 deaths were recorded in the AYA population.
- In India, as per published data, the median A4R is 22.2/100,000 for males & 29.2/100,000 for females.
- Age-specific incidence rates increase with increasing age in both genders, highest incidence in the 35-39 age group.
- Haematolymphoid cancers overall followed by thyroid & breast cancers were the most common malignancies.
- Haematolymphoid malignancies predominated in the 15-19 & 20-24 age groups, while cancers of the Head & neck, breast & gynaecological were higher in the 35-39 age group, mirroring adult trends.
- >50% of patients presented with an advanced-stage disease on presentation.
- Increasing incidence of cancer with an estimated 178,617 cases in 2025 in India.

**REFERENCES**


**CONCLUSION**

- AYA deserve multicenter collaboration, organizational support, and resource-appropriate treatment adaptation.
- Dedicated survivorship clinics with educational & vocational rehabilitation.
- Mapping the epidemiology will improve surveillance, further focused research and guide national policies & resource allocation.