



Newsletter

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Advisor Insight

Improving Quality of care for ovarian cancer patients

Ovarian cancer is the leading cause of cancer related death in women because of late diagnosis in the advanced stages. It is the third most common gynaecological cancer in India. If diagnosed in stage 1 it carries good prognosis with 5-year survival rate of 94%. But in early-stage patient has either no symptoms or has minimal symptoms like abdominal / pelvic pain, bloating, abdominal fullness, lump/ fluid in abdomen which are considered insignificant for many days.

Awareness for ovarian cancer in general population is minimal compared to other cancers like breast and uterine cervix. However, with improved treatment modalities, guidelines and facilities, the disease outcome has improved in optimally treated patients. Multidisciplinary team approach with intensive chemotherapy, aggressive cytoreductive surgery, genetic testing, counselling, long term follow up has improved the results. Targeted therapy and Immunotherapy have benefited selected subsets. But still only fraction of patients get treated by oncology experts. Therefore, awareness and early referral to experts is the key factor in improving results. Additionally,

a multidisciplinary team with regular meetings are crucial for the ongoing advancement of molecular, biological, and therapeutic knowledge in the field of ovarian cancer treatment. In fact, a multidisciplinary team approach and counselling can enhance the knowledge, acceptance, and compliance of majority of patients for proper effective treatment without delay.

Further, while there's no sure way to prevent ovarian cancer, there may be ways to reduce the risks:

Discuss your risk factors with your doctor. If you have a family history of breast and ovarian cancers, bring this up with your doctor. Your doctor can determine what this may mean for your own risk of cancer. You may be referred to a genetic counselor who can help you decide whether genetic testing may be right for you. If you're found to have a gene change that increases your risk of ovarian cancer, you may consider surgery to remove your ovaries to prevent cancer.



Dr Bharat J Parikh

Consultant Medical Oncologist,
Hemato Oncology Clinic Vedanta

Industry Voices

On enhancing collaboration to improve patient care in the ovarian cancer space

One of the most aggressive female cancers in the world is ovarian cancer. Currently, the primary treatment options are limited to surgery and chemotherapy, while only a tiny portion of ovarian cancer subtypes are addressed by targeted medicines. The 5-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is still quite low (30-40%)¹ compared to other frequent malignancies like breast cancer (80-90%)², despite great efforts from the academic and therapeutic sectors. Through the development of surgical methods and the accessibility of brand-new, potent medications that can increase patient longevity, the therapeutic alternatives for the treatment of ovarian cancer have substantially increased over the years. Ovarian cancer, nevertheless, is still regarded as one of the most challenging cancers to treat because of its complexity on the clinical, biological, and molecular levels.

Within this context, pharmaceutical corporations also have a special role to play in the development of cancer care systems, which are primarily the responsibility of national governments. Advances in ovarian cancer treatment are driven by scientific discoveries and effective research is necessary for every-

thing from improved screening and diagnostic methods to novel new medicines and survival initiatives. In light of this, it is more apparent than ever that research cannot stand alone, even as we direct high-impact studies in all branches of cancer science to develop a thorough understanding of the condition and address unmet medical needs. Further, in order to lower manufacturing costs, boost compliance and efficiency, enhance medication concordance, raise profitability, and lessen side effects, industry players, particularly in the ovarian cancer drugs market, are investing in the research and development of novel products such combination therapies. To transform our discoveries into useful results for our patients, collaboration is essential. Industries help government agencies and cancer research facilities produce cutting-edge products faster than they could on their own, including medications, diagnostics, equipment, and technology. These partnerships are genuinely mutually beneficial and ultimately help our patients.

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Mr Ashish Kumar

Vice President, Cluster Head for
Oncology & Ophthalmology
Business, Zydus group

Stories of Hope

I was diagnosed with Ovarian cancer of stage 3 in 2018. The story behind how I was diagnosed with cancer was unique. It started with a feeling on numbness in my stomach for 10-15 days, it was more prominently felt when I was wearing her saree. Because of that numbness and bloating I was not able to properly tie my saree. This pain and bloating persisted for two-three days and this struck me, I forced myself to undergo a sonography. Through this I then found out that water had accumulated in my stomach, however the doctors had not alerted me at the first go and nor was I aware about the symptoms of cancer myself. During my initial visits with doctors, I was either told that I had jaundice, Chikungunya and even food poisoning, and was asked to do several tests, including a pregnancy test and an X-ray that ultimately did not show anything out of the ordinary. Finally, after multiple rounds of consulting doctors, it was only after consulting other senior doctors that I was alerted of condition I was diagnosed with Stage 4 ovarian cancer. Previously, no one in my family had ever had cancer or had undergone any diagnosis or screening. So, this came as a shock to me!

During my treatment my family and I realised that along with my own positive attitude and emotional well-being, it is not only important to have positive support from your family, but it is equally integral for your medical professional to have a reassuring outlook on your treatment and survivorship journey. Upon realizing that my first doctor had no hopes of me surviving, I made a decision to put my life in the hands of a professional who actually believed that they could help me beat cancer. One advice I would give to everyone is maintaining a healthy diet. Your immune system may remain stronger with healthy eating. Oftentimes, chemotherapy lowers cell numbers. Keeping your cell counts high can help in your ability to adhere to your treatment plan.

I also urge everyone, especially women, to notice and tend to any changes that you might observe in your body. Normally we have a tendency to overlook even the most minute symptoms. It is important that we take our health seriously, and be regular with our tests and check-ups, be it mammography, or Pap smears; Prevention is always better than cure!



Ms Shilpa Racca

Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer Survivor,
Director, Racca Infotech Pvt Ltd

National Developments



Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Cancer Burden

■ **UPDATE:** Non-communicable diseases led to 66% of deaths in India in 2019: WHO

Key Highlights

- As per the WHO Report: 'Invisible numbers – the true scale of non-communicable diseases' stated. Cancer led to 9.20 lakh deaths.
- 9.3 million people die each year from cancer, according to the report's key conclusions, and 44% of cancer deaths might have been avoided or postponed if health hazards had been eliminated.
- Breast cancer and cervical cancer are the two cancers that affect women most often. However, the report states that just 2% of females (30–49 years old) had ever undergone a preventative screening. When a country-wide programme for cervical cancer screening is in place.
- The two leading causes of cancer mortality in men are lung and trachea cancers and mouth and oropharynx cancers. These cancers are largely brought on by tobacco use, exposure to secondhand smoke, and breathing in polluted air. The WHO report states that there is no significant gender disparity in cancer fatalities. Male cancer-related deaths in 2019 were 4.7 lakh, or 20,000 higher than female cancer-related fatalities.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Cancer Prevention

■ **UPDATE:** Cervical Cancer Vaccine, Made In India, To Be Available Soon At ₹ 200–400

Key Highlights

- In a few months, India will introduce its first locally produced quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer, which will be sold to the public for a reasonable price of between 200 and 400 rupees.
- Scientific completeness suggests that the vaccine's R&D efforts are finished, and that the public release of the vaccine is the next logical step.
- There is a plan in place to produce 200 million doses, and the vaccine will first be administered in India before being distributed to other nations.
- The CERVAVAC qHPV vaccine has shown a strong antibody response that is almost 1,000 times greater than the baseline against all targeted HPV strains and in all dosage and age categories, according to the experts.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer Burden
- **UPDATE:** Parliamentary Panel recommends cancer be made a notifiable disease

Key Highlights

- The Rajya Sabha chairman received the 139th report, "Cancer Care Plan and Management: Prevention, Diagnosis, Research & Affordability of Cancer Treatment,". This study proposed that cancer be recognised as a notifiable condition. The suggestion was made by the parliamentary standing committee on health and family welfare in light of several cancer-related fatalities that went unreported in India.
- We are happy to inform you that RAPID Global Cancer Alliance and IHW Council's insights and suggestions have been incorporated in the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee On Health And Family Welfare.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer Burden
- **UPDATE:** 'Prostrate cancer 3rd most common cancer in Indian males'

Key Highlights

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released a set of draught guidelines for the management of prostate cancer, which is increasingly prevalent among men, particularly in metro areas. Prostate cancer has increased from being the eighth most common cancer in men in the 1990s to the third rank by 2015.
- According to government statistics, India has 37416 documented instances of prostate cancer in 2016, and by 2020, that number would rise to 41532. By 2025, it is anticipated that there will be about 47,000 new instances of prostate cancer.
- In the 1990s, prostate cancer was the ninth most prevalent disease in men; by 2014, it was the third most common cancer in Delhi and Mumbai. Similar changes have occurred in Bangalore, where it rose from seventh most prevalent cancer in the 1990s to third now.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Cancer Burden

■ **UPDATE:** Local anaesthesia costing less than Rs. 100 can reduce breast cancer recurrence by 30 percent

Key Highlights

- The incredible potential of local anaesthesia in the treatment of breast cancer has been discovered by a ten-year study carried out by scientists at the Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai. The risk of mortality and recurrence might be greatly decreased by 29 percent and 30 percent, respectively, by administering local anaesthesia (0.5 percent lidocaine) as a cancer preventative just before breast cancer surgery.
- The findings of this study demonstrate that this simple, inexpensive intervention considerably raises the cure rates and survival of breast cancer patients, with an advantage that lasts for several years following surgery. The injection potentially save up to 100,000 lives yearly throughout the world, requires no additional training, and costs little. These significant advantages were attained using a procedure that only cost less than Rs. 100 per patient.
- This is the first trial of its sort anywhere in the world to demonstrate a significant advantage with a single intervention before surgery. It has the potential to save more than 100,000 lives a year if deployed globally.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Cancer Infrastructure

■ **UPDATE:** ₹650-crore-cancer hospital to come up in Bhubaneswar

Key Highlights

- At a projected cost of 650 crore, the Mumbai-based Tata Memorial Centre, a grant-in-aid organisation under the Department of Atomic Energy, would build and operate a 200-bed hospital at Jatani, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.
- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by the Odisha Health and Family Welfare Department and the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the construction of a cutting-edge cancer hospital on the National Institute of Science Education and Research at Jatni's campus.
- Additionally, the hospital will work with NISER to carry out translational research for certain tumours in Odisha. The facility will assist the State in developing effective mechanisms for accessible cancer treatment and management.
- The cancer hospital will also work with the State government to strengthen the skills and capacities of Odisha's medical professionals, including its physicians and paramedical personnel. The TMC will offer technical assistance to enhance the cancer treatment programmes in the districts of Mayurbhanj and Ganjam. The National Cancer Grid of TMC, Mumbai will be integrated with this cancer hospital as a result.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer Prevention
- **UPDATE:** Launch of the Medical Certification Cause of Death (MCCD) & Affordable Cancer Care (ACC) Project at a programme

Key Highlights

- The launch of the Medical Certification Cause of Death (MCCD) & Affordable Cancer Care (ACC) Project at a programme jointly organised by Tata Memorial Trust (TMC), under the department of Atomic Energy, government of India, and the state departments of health and family welfare and economics and statistics at Kohima provided a significant boost to the health care in Nagaland. A key tool for obtaining reliable and scientific data on mortality causes is the Medical Certification of Cause of Death Scheme. The plan developed by India's Office of the Registrar General is a significant step towards the establishment of a national system for collecting information on causes of death.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer notification
- **UPDATE:** Make cancer a notified disease: Parliament panel

Key Highlights

- The parliamentary standing committee on health and family welfare has suggested that cancer be recognised as a condition that must be reported. The committee claims that designating cancer as a "notified disease" will not only ensure a robust database of cancer deaths but also aid in accurately determining the incidence and prevalence of the disease in the nation. The committee's 139th report was delivered to the Rajya Sabha secretariat on Monday.
- For registration, real-time data gathering, counselling, supporting resources for cancer care, and interactive technologies, it has been suggested that a portal like to CoWin be created. Through the Population Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) and Hospital Based Cancer Registry, the National Cancer Registry Program has been operational since 1982. Only 10% of Indians, according to the panel, are protected by PBCRs.
- In order to comprehend the causes of particular cancers in a particular location and produce a conclusion and research outcome for cancer therapy, it has also been advised promoting region-based cancer research programmes.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer technology
- **UPDATE:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar to install high-end machine for cancer treatment

Key Highlights

- Patients with cancer have been receiving conformal radiation therapy from the radiation oncology department. Another Dual Energy Linear Accelerator with cutting-edge modern technology for cancer treatment will be installed. The patient waiting period for diagnosis and treatment will be shorter after the addition of the second machine, and the standard of care will be greater.
- The project is anticipated to be finished by January 2023, and the machine will enter clinical use following permission from the Mumbai-based Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The machine will be equipped with attachments for performing all types of adaptive radiotherapy, as well as SBRT, SRS, SRT, IMRT, and IGRT.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment
- **UPDATE:** Survey reveals low awareness about cancer screening in Arunachal Pradesh.

Key Highlights

- Only 5.6% of those polled in Arunachal Pradesh by the ICMR-NCDIR monitoring study of cancer risk factors and health system responsiveness in the northeast area were aware of cancer screening. Among them, 5% of the males knew about it, compared to 6.2% of the women, who were informed about cancer.
- Additionally, it was shown that just 1.4% of women in urban regions and 0.2% of women in rural areas had had breast cancer screening. Even worse, in rural and urban settings, respectively, 0.3% and 0.1% of women who had received cervical cancer screenings.
- Low screening rates for diabetes, hypertension, and common malignancies are all mentioned in the paper as indicators of "poor health system responsiveness and readiness." Additionally, it said that the majority of cancer patients sought treatment outside the state and that there is poor health treatment seeking behaviour.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment

■ **UPDATE:** NATCO Cancer Center Adopts Dozee, India's First Contactless Continuous Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) Technology

Key Highlights

■ NATCO Cancer Centre, Government General hospital, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh state government's flagship cancer hospital, today announced the installation of Dozee's Contactless Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) and Early Warning System (EWS) at the hospital. These devices powered by next-generation AI algorithms track vital parameters of patients undergoing cancer treatment and help HCPs identify early clinical deterioration of the patients for timely medical intervention. This helps HCPs to provide better care with improved patient safety and improves the operational efficiency of the nursing staff. This solution is provided to the hospital under the MillionICU initiative of Dozee for transforming public healthcare in India.

- It is essential to maintain high-risk oncology patients appropriately segregated in a secure and restricted setting since they are vulnerable to hospital-acquired infections while receiving hospital treatment. They also need regular and ongoing monitoring of their vital signs because they are receiving rigorous therapy.
- Dozee's technology can monitor vital signs such heart rate, respiration rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, ECG, and temperature with a minimum of human interaction. Additionally, it includes an Early Warning System (EWS) that warns the concerned healthcare professionals in order to enable prompt action. When monitoring an oncology patient's vital signs as they get specialised chemotherapy treatments, such crucial information can assist healthcare providers in making data-backed, prompt therapeutic decisions in real-time.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer Study
- **UPDATE:** Small anaesthetic intervention helps breast cancer patients, finds new Tata Memorial Hospital study

Key Highlights

- Using local anaesthesia (0.5% lidocaine) as an anti-cancer drug soon before breast cancer surgery considerably reduced the chance of mortality and recurrence by 29% and 30%, respectively, according to a ten-year research conducted by physicians at the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC).
- A routinely used local anaesthetic called lidocaine was administered around the breast tumour in the trial, which was carried out by researchers at 11 cancer centres around India, minutes before the operation. The local anaesthetic injection (costs less than Rs 100), according to Dr. Rajendra Badwe, the primary investigator and head of Tata Memorial Centre, was given prior to surgery for its anti-cancer effects rather than to dull the pain.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Cancer Infrastructure
- **UPDATE:** TMC to assist BALCO centre on new cancer study using anaesthetic intervention

Key Highlights

- The sixth most common cancer in the world, head and neck cancers account for 30–40% of cancer cases in India. Over 200,000 new instances of head and neck cancer occur each year in India, and there are also an estimated 150,000 new cases of breast cancer, of which 90,000–100,000 are candidates for surgery.
- The partnership between TMC and BALCO Medical Centre, Raipur will involve staff training, educational sessions, institutional fellowships, patient cross-referrals, and collaborative research.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment

■ **UPDATE:** Centre Plans To Include SII's qHPV Vaccine Against Cervical Cancer In National Immunization Programme

Key Highlights

- The government is planning to include Serum Institute of India's indigenously-developed Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer in the National Immunization Programme.
- The health ministry is planning to roll out qHPV for girls aged 9-14 years under the National Immunization Programme. The roll out may take up to six months
- The phase 2/3 clinical trial of the vaccine has been completed with support of the Department of Biotechnology. The government's advisory panel NTAGI recently approved qHPV after reviewing clinical trial data of the vaccine.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Cancer Prevention

■ **UPDATE:** Odisha to introduce HPV vax in 10 aspirational districts in the first phase

Key Highlights

- Odisha is one of the states with rising cases of cervical cancer, which kills one woman in every eight minutes in the country. Around 90 per cent (pc) of cervical cancers are caused by HPV, types 16 and 18 which transmits sexually.
- With the Centre planning to roll out the first quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer as part of the national immunisation programme by this year-end, the Odisha government has decided to introduce the vaccine in the 10 aspirational districts in the first phase.
- The vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) will be introduced to adolescents as part of a routine immunisation programme. It will be administered to girl students of 9-13 years in Nuapada, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Balangir, Dhenkanal, Koraput and Gajapati districts.
- The State government has decided to expand screening and services for breast and cervical cancers from medical colleges to the district headquarters hospital (DHH)

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Mental Health

■ **UPDATE:** Mental distress of caregivers often overlooked affecting care of cancer patients- AIIMS study

Key Highlights

- The study was conducted from July 2020 to March 2021 at the Department of Radiation Oncology at AIIMS Patna to determine the quality of life of the caregivers of cancer patients.
- Dr Abhishek Shankar, Associate Professor at the Department of Radiation Oncology and one of the authors of the study, said 54 per cent of the respondents considered the cancer patient a burden while 55 per cent admitted to having major financial concerns over the treatment and disease management.
- Almost 62 per cent felt their daily routine has changed and around 38 per cent of respondents said they positively adapted to the changed situation over a period of time.
- Lead author Dr Rakesh said the study took longer than what was proposed in the protocol due to the COVID-19 pandemic which led to fewer people visiting the hospital for cancer treatment.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment

■ **UPDATE:** West Bengal- Cancer drug rates under Swasthya Sathi capped

Key Highlights

- The West Bengal government starting with July has been Settling Swasthya Sathi claims Directly instead of rerouting it through insurance company and has now decided to cap package rates for cancer orthopaedic neurosurgery and pain management procedures.
- It has also fix rates for 129 cat cancer drugs while reading out several expensive ones from the treatment protocol under the scheme beside capping hospitalisation rates for chemotherapy
- These recommended modifications or to be implemented with immediate effect

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment
- **UPDATE:** Karnataka government grants Rs 10 crore to cancer institute

Key Highlights

- The Karnataka Cancer Therapy and Research Institute, a 45-year-old Hospital serving cancer patients in north Karnataka and a Goa region has got a much needed government grant of Rs.10,00,00,000 to upgrade technology.
- Procuring some radiotherapy equipment and renovation of the OPD block is being planned as well as the requirement of a mobile detection van procuring machines for memo Graffi and ultrasound and setting up a diagnostic Centre are in the pipeline.
- The hospital treats nearly 1800 cases a year

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment
- **UPDATE:** Arunachal Pradesh To Establish 'Tertiary Care Cancer Centre'; Effort To Eliminate Cancer Menace

Key Highlights

- In an effort to transform Arunachal Pradesh into cancer-free state and eliminating the cancer menace, the state administration has decided to establish a state-of-the-art Comprehensive Tertiary Care Cancer Centre through a phased manner.
- This state-of-the-art health facility will incorporate of advanced technologies, including – linear accelerator (True Beam), Brach therapy Unit, and PET CT scan.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Risk Factor

■ **UPDATE:** '106 out of 1,00,000': Deaths by PM2.5 in Delhi well above global median, study finds

Key Highlights

- The national capital tops the list of 103 cities across the world with the highest annual average PM2.5 exposure level. The number of deaths attributable to PM2.5 in Delhi is 106 out of 1,00,000 people in 2019, according to the 'Air Quality and Health in Cities' report released Wednesday.
- To calculate the burden on health caused by PM2.5, mortality from six illnesses were taken into account: ischemic heart disease, stroke, lower respiratory infections, lung cancer, type 2 diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- Delhi's population-weighted annual average PM2.5 exposure in 2019 was 110 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Kolkata came second on the list with 84 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, followed by Kano (Nigeria), Lima (Peru), and Dhaka (Bangladesh). The PM2.5 annual average concentration in 2010 in Delhi was slightly higher – 114.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The World Health Organisation guidelines for annual PM2.5 concentration is 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Risk Factor

■ **UPDATE:** The global burden of cancer attributable to risk factors, 2010–19: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019

Key Highlights

- Smoking, alcohol use, high BMI and other known risk factors were responsible for over 37% of cancer deaths in 2019, as per a new research published in the Lancet.
- Globally 44.4% (4.5 million) of all cancer deaths were attributable to risk factors, says the study.
- The leading risk factors contributing to global cancer burden in 2019 were behavioural, whereas metabolic risk factors saw the largest increases between 2010 and 2019.
- Reducing exposure to these modifiable risk factors would decrease cancer mortality and DALY rates worldwide, and policies should be tailored appropriately to local cancer risk factor burden.

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment
- **UPDATE:** Delhi institute develops 3D printed spinal orthosis for disabled people suffering from cancer

Key Highlights

- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan) has developed a three-dimensional printed spinal orthosis for people with disabilities suffering from cancer.
- The first such instrument was fitted in a patient on Thursday in presence of Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Virendra Kumar
- An orthosis is an externally applied device used to influence the structural and functional characteristics of the neuromuscular and skeletal system.

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Risk Factor
- **UPDATE:** Experimental test promises to predict side-effects and cancer's return in patients treated with immunotherapy

Key Highlights

- The study, which was written up online on September 15 in Clinical Cancer Research, focused on the collection of immune system signalling proteins known as antibodies that detect foreign bacteria, viruses, and fungi. In certain situations, "autoantibodies" also react to the body's "own" proteins to create autoimmune illness. These blood proteins are made to cling to and neutralise specific bacterial and viral proteins.
- With the use of two of the most effective checkpoint inhibitors, nivolumab and ipilimumab, as well as their combination, the team in the current study was able to identify a panel of unique autoantibody signatures that might predict immune-related side effects. More research is required, the researchers note, to validate the utility of such a test in the clinic and to better understand the relationship between autoantibodies, recurrence, and toxicity. Although their data support the predictive utility of the autoantibody scores by comparing them with data from clinical trials, they note that this is only the first step.

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Cancer Infrastructure
- **UPDATE:** Goa Govt to sign MoU with Tata hospital, Centre for cancer institute

Key Highlights

- The state government would sign a Tripartite MoU with Tata Memorial Cancer Institute and the Government of India for mentoring purposes and guidance for the proposed State Cancer Institute of Goa.
- The minister informed that the Union Ministry of Health would send a team of officials to understand the unique needs of Goa, including upgrading South Goa District Hospital with a separate medical college as recommended by NITI Aayog.

Pipeline News

- **THEME:** Cancer Infrastructure
- **UPDATE:** PM will dedicate 'Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre' to the Nation

Key Highlights

- PM will dedicate 'Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre' to the Nation at Mullanpur, New Chandigarh, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar District (Mohali) in the afternoon at 2:15 pm.
- The Hospital has been built at a cost of over Rs. 660 Crore by Tata Memorial Centre in an endeavour to provide world class Cancer care to the residents of Punjab and neighbouring states and UTs.
- The cancer Hospital is a tertiary care hospital of 300 bed capacity and is equipped with modern facilities to treat all types of cancers using every available treatment modalities like Surgery, Radiotherapy and Medical oncology - Chemotherapy, immuno-therapy and Bone marrow transplant.

Pipeline News

■ **THEME:** Cancer Infrastructure

■ **UPDATE:** Roche India partners with Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) to launch Advanced Certification Programme in Molecular Oncology in India

Key Highlights

- Roche India on Monday announced that it is partnering with Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) – Jefferson Health, Pennsylvania, USA and BioQuest Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and launched an Advanced Certification Program in Molecular Oncology (ACMO) to equip oncologists and pathologists in the country with methods of genomic/personalised medicine.
- According to a press statement, around 100 health-care professionals including 70 oncologists and 30 pathologists from across the country will be trained under this programme.
- Precision oncology is based on using an individual's genetic profile to make the best therapeutic choice and will help to decipher whether a treatment will be beneficial for the patient or not, the company claims.

Pipeline News

■ **THEME:** Drugs and Treatment

■ **UPDATE:** 'Cervavac' by Serum Institute to prevent cervical cancer; gets DCGI nod

Key Highlights

- Cervavac- country's first quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV), manufactured by Pune-based, Serum Institute of India (SII)
- Has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for Market authorisation; estimated to be launched by end of 2022.
- The vaccine as noted by SII CEO Adar Poonawalla, is going to be affordable and accessible.
- In India, cervical cancer accounted for 9.4 per cent of all cancers and 18.3 per cent of new cases in 2020 (Indian Journal of Gynaecologic Oncology, December 2021).

Pharma and Medical Device

- **THEME:** Medical Device
- **UPDATE:** iBreastExam, developed by Indo-U.S. teams, helps make early detection of breast cancer accessible, affordable and painless.

Key Highlights

- A device developed by teams from the United States and India might hold the key to improving the situation. Its ultra-portable, wireless, handheld iBreastExam device has helped thousands of women around the world receive crucial information about their health.
- The device's transportability and affordability are critical because survival rates are closely tied to geography, as women in rural areas may not be able to travel to a city to receive a traditional mammogram.
- Feedback received from both patients and health care professionals has been very positive so far. The company has also conducted multiple international clinical studies, with over 7,500 women enrolled.

International Developments



Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Cancer Breakthrough

■ **UPDATE:** Scientists stop growth of melanoma cells in huge cancer breakthrough

Key Highlights

- Researchers at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles have found that exposure to synthetic chemicals, common on several household goods and some kitchen utensils, can increase a person's risk of getting liver cancer.
- The 'forever chemicals' that are common on some kitchenware and food packaging may quadruple the risk of cancer, the study warned. The chemicals, according to the Centre of Disease Control and Prevention, are almost everywhere from non-stick kitchen utensils to tap water, waterproof clothing, cleaning products and shampoo.
- The researchers studied data of 50 people who developed liver cancer and 50 others who did not. This was followed by an analysis of blood samples from the cancer patients before the diagnosis and compared with the people who never developed the disease. Several types of chemicals were found in the bloodstreams of people who eventually developed cancer.

Policy Insight

■ **THEME:** Risk Factor

■ **UPDATE:** Study: High-Dose Insulin Linked to Cancer Risk for Type 1 Diabetes

Key Highlights

- A recent study has linked high insulin use to cancer risk in people with type 1 diabetes.
- Previous studies have linked having type 1 diabetes to a higher risk for cancer.
- It is unclear how much of a role insulin plays in the link between the two conditions. Needing higher levels of insulin could be a marker of insulin resistance (when the body's cells do not respond well to insulin) that's being caused by something else.
- When it comes to the risk of cancer for women with type 1 diabetes, the findings from Mao's study lined up with previous research that had also shown a higher cancer risk among women with type 1 diabetes who took insulin.

Pharma and Medical Device

- **THEME:** Technology
- **UPDATE:** Ovarian Cancer Detection Takes a Step Forward, Thanks to Wilmot

Key Highlights

- According to a new study by a physician/scientist at Wilmot Cancer Institute, a novel method may successfully detect stray ovarian cancer cells from a routine blood test and accurately forecast cancer in those who have a lesion or cyst in the pelvic area. The research, which was directed by Richard Moore, M.D., head of the University of Rochester Medical Center's Gynecologic Oncology division at the Wilmot Cancer Institute, included over 200 residents of the area.
- A quick and precise confirmation of the presence of cancer in patients who were scheduled for surgery or other operations was provided by the study to doctors. With the use of the detection, doctors were able to categorise which patients need urgent treatment from a gynaecological oncologist with specialised training to increase survival.

Policy Insight

- **THEME:** Risk Factor
- **UPDATE:** Not brushing your teeth properly raises the risk of liver cancer by 75% - study

Key Highlights

- Poor oral hygiene may greatly raise the chance of acquiring liver cancer, according to research done by a group from Queen's University Belfast. According to the study, which was written up in the United European Gastroenterology journal, those who have mouth ulcers, loose teeth, or sore or bleeding gums are 75% more likely to have hepatocellular carcinoma. The most typical kind of primary liver cancer is this one.
- Researchers examined the relationship between oral health issues and the risk of many gastrointestinal malignancies, including liver, colon, rectum, and pancreatic cancer, as part of their analysis of a cohort of over 469,000 adults in the UK.
- The second is that those who have oral health issues, including missing teeth, are more inclined to eat softer foods that may be less nutrient-dense, which may increase their chance of developing liver cancer. Hepatocellular carcinoma is a kind of liver cancer that arises from the large hepatocytes that make up the liver.