

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in Egypt: a comprehensive overview

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Abstract: Worldwide, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a universal problem and its epidemiological data 11 showed variation from place to place. Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the sixth and fourth common cancer in 12 worldwide and Egypt, respectively. Egypt ranks the third and 15th most populous country in Africa and worldwide, 13 respectively. The aim of this review is to compare the status of HCC in Egypt to that in the worldwide from 14 different issues; risk factors, screening and surveillance, diagnosis and treatment, prevention, as well as research strategy. 15 **Main body:** The risk factors for HCC in Egypt are of great importance to be reported. The risk factor for HCC either 16 environmental- or host/genetic-related risk factors are of great importance to be reported. In the last years, there is 17 a tangible improvement of both screening and surveillance strategies of HCC in Egypt. The unprecedented national 18 screening campaign launched by the end of 2018 is a mirror image of this improvement. While the improvement 19 of the HCC prevention requires the governmental health administration to implement health policies. Although the 20 diagnosis of Egyptian HCC patients follows the international guidelines but HCC treatment options are limited in 21 terms of cost. In addition, there are limited Egyptian reports about HCC survival and relapse. Both basic and clinical 22 HCC research in Egypt are still limited compared to worldwide. 23 **Short conclusion:** Deep analysis and understanding of factors affecting HCC burden variation worldwide help in 24 customization of efforts exerted to face HCC in different countries especially large country like Egypt. Overall, the 25 presence of a research strategy to fight HCC in Egyptian patients will help in the optimum allocation of available 26 resources to reduce the numbers of HCC cases and deaths and to improve the quality of life.

Keywords: Hepatocellular carcinoma, Epidemiology, Screening and Surveillance, Prevention, Diagnosis and 28 treatment, Research