



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

To Editor
For Immediate Release

19 April 1997

Adult Blood Cancer Patients Join to Help Themselves

On average a new case of leukaemia occurs in the territory every day. According to the Hong Kong Cancer Registry, there were 375 new leukaemia cases in 1992. In a population of six million, 6 in every 100,000 people are diagnosed with leukaemia annually. 80% of patients afflicted by acute leukaemia are adults over the age of 20.

Two-thirds blood cancer patients are treated with chemotherapy or radiotherapy. And even before patients undertake a bone marrow transplant, they must first be successfully treated with repeated rounds of chemotherapy.

Adult blood cancer patients at the Prince of Wales Hospital have recently joined together to form a patient support group with the purposes of uniting leukaemia patients to help themselves by helping one another and drawing the public's attention to the care and needs of leukaemia patients.

The Department of Clinical Oncology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong has also established the "Adult Blood Cancer/ABC Fund" with a view to support the running of the patient support group in their mission and to enhance public education and the standards of treatment of adult blood cancer.

"Resources are needed to support patients through all the stages of their treatment. The quality of specialist nursing care, ward isolation facilities and medical expertise, are all vital to immune compromised patients receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy. For a community of the size of ours, at least five specialist centres should be set up for the treatment of leukaemia," said Dr Nicholas Wickham, ABC Fund Founder and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Clinical Oncology of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The ABC support group started as an ad hoc support group last September with the support of staff at the hospital. It has grown to the present 40-member group and was registered in March 1997.

Blood cancer patients are, as a group, often younger than other cancer patients and often receive more intensive treatment and are at more risk of infection. Many patients will relapse and require further treatment even after a bone marrow transplant or chemotherapy. The ABC Patient Support Group aims to provide education and emotional support to patients and their families who are often confused and distressed at learning of their diagnosis, as blood cancer often occurs without warning.

"One of our missions is to build a territory-wide support network and we welcome all leukaemia patients and their family to join and fight the disease together," said Ms Lok Wong, the Chairman of the ABC Patient Support Group Committee..

The Honorable Andrew Wong Wang-fat has agreed to be the Patron of ABC Group.

~~~~~