

ABSTRACT

Background: Prostate cancer is the second most frequent type of cancer among men and the rate is known to have increased about five times over the last 30 years. It was the sixth leading cause of cancer deaths among men, with over 1.1 million cases and 300,000 deaths estimated in 2012. Cost of cancer care is gradually increasing and it poses a significant financial burden to patients, even to those with health insurance. Currently the proportion of household cost incurred in managing prostate cancer in Ghana and the coping strategies households use to mitigate against cost of care is still unclear. This study sought to estimate the direct and indirect cost of Prostate Cancer among patients seeking treatment. The coping mechanism adopted by families to deal with the financial cost of Prostate Cancer treatment was also explored.

Methodology: This was a descriptive cross-sectional study design. The study employed a quantitative technique to estimate the economic cost using the cost of illness approach. A total of 137 prostate cancer patients participated in the study. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire. All analyses were performed using STATA 15 BC (Statacorp, College Station, Texas).

Results: The total estimated cost of prostate cancer both direct and indirect per month was GHS 226,779.1 (USD 43,631.2) with an average cost of GHS 1,655 (USD 316.5). The direct cost accounted for 93.4% of the total cost while the indirect cost accounted for 4.6%. The financial coping strategies used by patients to cope with the cost of prostate cancer included using savings (42.3%), borrowing money (9.6%), selling properties (9.3%), among others.

Conclusion: Prostate cancer management poses an economic burden to patients and their households and might serve as a barrier to access to the needed prostate cancer treatment services. Policies and programs are needed to tackle the economic burden associated with treatment of the disease.