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Financial barrier can overcome by biosimilar products

There was an estimated 14.1 million of new cancer cases worldwide in 2012. Four out of ten cancers occurred in people who have low or medium level of Human Development Index (HDI). There will be increase in new cancer patients an estimated of 20 million annually by 2025. Thus, cancer burden will be increased in worldwide over next decades. Biosimilar product is one of the best solutions to reduce the burden of cancer patients and overcome the financial barrier. Because of financial barriers, out of 154 Her2 positive breast cancer patients, only 42 patients were affordable for antiHer2 targeted therapy in Myanmar. Breast cancer is one of the commonest cancers in Myanmar woman even molecular targeted therapy available. Biosimilar products decrease costs, but efficacy and safety are consistent with the original products. For development of biosimilar products, it is very important to conduct the post-market pharmacovigilance in Asia because of higher rate of unexpected adverse events can occur with biosimilar products in compared to generic agents. Some examples of filgrastim biosimilars are rituximab, trastuzumab, and bevacizumab.

For developing country like Myanmar financial barrier plays a major role in treating cancer patients and great benefits may be obtained if there is interchangeability between the biosimilar and the reference generic products and pharmacovigilance studies. It is suggested that financial barrier can overcome by biosimilar products, but further studies are required to assess the benefits and outcome of biosimilar products.

Speaker Biography

Myat Thu Thu Win has completed her MBBS, MMedSc (Pharmacology) from the Institute of Medicine (I), Yangon, Myanmar in 2002 and 2005 respectively. She has completed her PhD (Japan) at Graduate School of Medical Science Kanazawa University in 2013. She has received Japanese Government Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology scholarship for PhD. She joined for her Post-doctoral studies in the same University for three months. Currently, she is a Medical Consultant in Myanmar. She had not only teaching and research experience more than 7 years, but also had clinical experience in Myanmar more than 8 years. She has accepted offer from AIMST University in 2016 and currently doing as a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine, Asian Institute of Medical Science and Technology (AIMST) teaching medical and dental students. She published 5 articles and total citation 79, H-index 3 and i10- index 2.

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