

**"A MOTHER'S SILENT ADVERSARY": A CASE OF PREGNANT WOMAN WITH CERVICAL CANCER****Paola M Millare and Nelinda Catherine P Pangilinan**

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Cervical cancer is the most commonly diagnosed gynecological malignancy during pregnancy. Owing to the rarity of the disease, and the complexity of all factors that have to be taken into consideration, standardization of treatment is very difficult. In the Philippines, cervical cancer is the second most common malignancy among women. For this reason much attention has been put to early detection and treatment of the disease. The treatment of cancer during pregnancy is most challenging in the case of cervical cancer, since the pregnant uterus itself is affected. Approximately 500,000 new cases of invasive cervical cancer have been diagnosed worldwide each year with more than 250,000 women dying of the disease. Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women after breast cancer. For this reason, much attention has been put to early detection and treatment of the disease. The importance of Pap smear and visual inspection with acetic acid as screening tools cannot be overemphasized. However, cervical cancer remains a leading cause of cancer deaths among women with a low socioeconomic level. Almost half a million cases are diagnosed each year, 80% of whom are from developing countries like the Philippines. The overall survival rate is 44% or 10 in 100,000 women die of the disease in five years.

**BIOGRAPHY**

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