

Gender differences in cancer

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Twenty percent of mortality in Western populations is due to cancer, 40% gets cancer at some point during life. It is an increasing concern also in developing countries. Apart from gender specific cancers, most cancer forms show conspicuous differences in frequencies among females and males. This is a reflection of differences in life style, but also is likely to reflect fundamental differences in biology and genetic components. In this presentation some of these gender differences will be highlighted and hypotheses will be discussed on gender differences for some cancer forms. It will be advocated that much further research in epidemiology and biology will be necessary to understand these differences, which also may have implications for future need to differentiate treatment between women and men.