
EDITORIAL

About this issue...

Dear Readers

Welcome to the last edition of 2019 for the Southern African Gynaecological Oncology Journal.

We include four original research articles in this edition.

The first is a retrospective review by JL Butt et al. from Stellenbosch University on the incidence of bone metastases in a large cervical cancer cohort. It appears it is a rare occurrence but portends a poor overall survival. The utilisation of a prognostic scoring system provides useful guidance for clinical practice.

PTG Shiba et al. from the University of the Witwatersrand report on a second clinical scenario that relates to poor survival in cervical carcinoma patients – veno-thrombotic events. In a cohort of nearly 50 patients who developed VTE, those who were diagnosed during radiotherapy had particularly poor outcomes but for the whole cohort survival was significantly impacted.

BS Makhathini et al. from the University of KwaZulu-Natal/Pretoria University evaluated the impact of socio-economic and clinical factors on outcomes in gestational neoplastic disease treated at Grey's Hospital. Clinical factors leading to poor outcomes included antecedent term pregnancies and HIV-positive status. Increased distance from the tertiary centre was also linked to poor survival, highlighting the difficulties faced in providing care for patients in remote rural regions of the country

and their challenges to access care due to multiple constraints including lack of finances and poorly established hospital transport systems.

The final original submission was from the school of nursing at the University of the Western Cape. AD Olanlesi-Aliu et al. undertook a detailed look at barriers to utilisation of prevention services in cervical cancer in Nigeria. These barriers are multi-faceted and include lack of awareness and availability of information. However in a related theme to Makhathini et al., lack of availability of screening resources or difficulties accessing those resources were linked to poor uptake. This commonality that we all share on the continent is the challenge our patients face in accessing the prevention service and treatment facilities which they so desperately need.

Finally on our social page we share an update and snaps from the recent International Gynecologic Oncology Society congress in Brazil.

Don't forget to register for the SASGO congress 21–23 August 2020 in Johannesburg! <https://www.sasgo2020.co.za/index.php>

Thank you to all who have contributed to the journal this year and we look forward to a fruitful year in 2020. With a special thanks to our Medpharm team.

Hannah and Linda