

Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) Cancer in Canada

7,600 young people (15-39) are diagnosed with cancer per year in Canada; 10% of total cancers 15-69.

Incidence of cancer in young people is increasing; outside of genetic predisposition, there is little known cause; AYA cancers appear to be sporadic and random. (SEER)

Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) 30% of total cancers 15-69. (Health Canada)



TYPES OF AYA CANCER



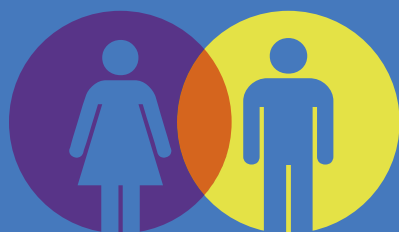
YOUNG WOMEN (15-29)

Thyroid cancer is the most common followed by lymphomas, skin cancer, genital system malignancies and breast cancer. (CCS)



YOUNG MEN (15-29)

Testicular cancer is the most common followed by lymphomas, brain and spinal cord tumours, leukemias and thyroid cancer. (CCS)



YOUNG ADULTS (15-39)

Over 80% of new AYA cancer cases in Canada are thyroid cancer, breast cancer, Hodgkin lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, testicular cancer and melanoma. (Stats Can)

COMMON SIGNS OF CANCER IN AYA

Unexplained and persistent: pain; lump, bump or swelling; significant weight loss; extreme tiredness; changes in a mole. (Teenage Cancer Trust)

AYA CANCER ISSUES

- limited opportunity for prevention for many cancers
 - delays in diagnosis due to patient or health care provider inaction
 - psychosocial challenges
 - age appropriate treatment protocols
 - lower participation in clinical trials
 - possibility of future health problems
- (Canadian Cancer Society)

ACTION ITEMS

- improve cancer awareness activities among young adults and health care providers
 - find innovative ways to increase and improve communication between doctors and AYA patients
 - find innovative ways to increase and improve early diagnosis, treatment and medical follow-up
 - encourage regular and prompt medical care, especially if AYAs are aware of unusual changes to their skin, breasts or testes
- (Canadian Cancer Society)