Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

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Unit: 14

Module Name: Types of Cancer- Carcinomas and Sarcomas

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TYPES OF CANCER- CARCINOMAS AND SARCOMAS

- Cancer is caused due to abnormal and uncontrolled proliferation of cells in the body.
- A tumor is caused when an abnormal cell divides uncontrollably and increases in mass.
- A tumor is also known as neoplasm.

Tumor can be of two types:

- 1. Benign tumor
- 2. Malignant tumor

Benign tumor- a tumor that is confined to its original location and does not invade the surrounding tissues or other parts of the body.

- The patient can be treated by removing the tumor surgically or by destroying the mass locally.

Malignant tumor- when the cells of a tumor acquire the ability to invade the neighbouring tissues and spread throughout the body, it is known as a malignant tumor.

- Invasiveness is a characteristic of cancer cells
- It can spread through the circulatory or lymphatic system
- When the tumor invades the neighbouring tissues and spreads throughout the body, it is called metastasis and can kill the patient.

Based on the cells and type of tissues from which the tumors arise, cancer can be categorized into the following groups:

- 1. Carcinomas
- 2. Sarcomas
- 3. Lymphomas
- 4. Leukemias

CARCINOMAS

The cancers that arise from the epithelial cells are called carcinomas.

- It is the most common type of cancer and accounts for about 80% of the human cancers
- Since the epithelial tissues are more likely to be exposed to various physical and chemical cancer-causing agents, they can form tumors

Types of Carcinomas

- 1. Basal cell carcinoma: it is the most common type and grows in the inner layer of the skin
- 2. Squamous cell carcinoma: grows in the digestive tract, respiratory tract, on the neck
- 3. Renal cell carcinoma: it is the most common type of kidney cancer
- 4. Invasive ductal carcinoma: example breast cancer (starts in the milk ducts and then spreads to the fatty tissue of the breast)

SARCOMAS

The cancers that arise from the connective tissues like muscle, bone, cartilage and fibrous tissues are called sarcomas.

• They are rare in humans

Types of sarcomas

- 1. Angiosarcoma: it grows in the inner walls of the blood vessels
- 2. Bone cancer: is rare
- 3. Liposarcoma: it develops in the fat cells of the trunk, limbs
- 4. Fibroblastic sarcoma: it forms in the fibrous tissues of limbs, skin and trunk