

CME ON HEPATO – PANCREATICO – BILIARY MALIGNANCIES: **MASTERING THE MAZE**

31st May is considered across the globe as World No Tobacco Day to highlight the harmful effects of tobacco and its relation to cancer and a number of other debilitating illnesses. To mark the day, Association of Oncologists of North East India (AONEI), in collaboration with Guwahati City Branch of Assam Chapter of Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) organised a CME programme on the topic of “Hepato – pancreatico – biliary (HPB) malignancies” at Hotel Palacio, Khanapara, Guwahati. It was ably organised by Dr. Shivaji Sharma (Asst. Prof. of Surgical Oncology, BBCI) as the organizing secretary, under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Bibhuti B. Borthakur (Director, BBCI) as the organizing chairperson.

The session started with a Quiz contest on HPB malignancies conducted by quizmaster Dr. Ashutosh Sahewalla. A number of teams from BBCI, SCI – GMC and GMCH participated in the enthralling 2 - round contest, that was judged by Dr. Chidananda Bhuyan and Dr. Kuddush Ahmed. The team formed by Dr. Mohit Malhotra, Dr. Shahir Merchant and Dr. Yogesh J. finally emerged victorious.

This was followed by a welcome address by the Secretary AONEI, Dr. Abhijeet Talukdar and thereafter started the scientific sessions for the evening. The anchor for the evening was Dr. Fermin Iswary from SCI, and co - hosted by Dr. Tapashi Das from BBCI.

The 1st session was a talk on “Tobacco Control – Myth or Mitigable Risk?” by eminent Head and neck oncologist Dr. Ashok Kr. Das. The session was chaired by Dr. N. N. Das, Dr. Neelakshi Mahanta and Dr. Apurba Kr. Kalita. Following the lecture, Dr. Mahanta provided her valuable insights into the measures of tobacco control.

The next session (session 2) was a discussion on gall – bladder malignancies. Dr. Rukmini Bezbaruah started this session with a didactic presentation on pathogenesis of gall bladder malignancies and mimicking lesions. Thereafter, Dr. Naresh Jadhav enlightened us with his data and inputs on the role of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in gall bladder cancer. This session was chaired by Dr. Anupam Sarma, Dr. Deep Jyoti Kalita and Dr. Chidananda Bhuyan.

Session 3 delved deep into pancreatic cancer with the session being chaired by experts on the topic Dr. P. P. Das, Dr. B. K. Das and Dr. Vikas Jagtap. Pancreatic imaging was described in details by Dr. Pavel Barman, while Dr. Jyotiman Nath spoke on the upcoming topic of radiation in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. The 3rd lecture was by Dr. Partha Sarathi Roy on chemotherapy in the same group of malignancies.

Dr. Purujit Choudhury, Dr. Munlima Hazarika, Dr. Ganesh Das and Dr. Hiranmoy Das chaired the 4th session which was on hepatocellular malignancies. Dr. Sarfaraz Ahmed initiated this session with an expert elaboration of the segmental anatomy of the liver. Then followed the lecture which was awaited by all in the audience – by Dr. Shraddha Patkar – hepato – biliary oncologist and surgeon from TMH Mumbai – who was kind enough to grace the evening with her engaging talk on types and techniques of hepatic resection. Thereafter Dr. Gaurav C. Das explained how ablative techniques work in malignant liver lesions.

The training of our oncology residents are a priority – keeping this in mind, a case presentation in a mock exam scenario was done by Dr. Dibyajyoti Deka (BBCI) and Dr. Masoon Parvez(SCI) – both 3rd year MCh Surgical Oncology residents. It was moderated by Dr. N. N. Ganguly, Dr. Shraddha Patkar and Dr. Abhijeet Talukdar. This session contributed in smoothening out the rough edges and making our residents better prepared for their forthcoming exams.

The academic epilogue of the evening was a panel discussion on a case of pancreatic head malignancy, skillfully moderated by Dr. Shivaji Sharma. The panelists comprising of Dr. Gaurav Das, Dr. Rajiv Paul, Dr. Prakash Rajkumar, Dr. Tarjina Begum, Dr. Palash Das, Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Sakshi Gupta and Dr. Kaushik J. Katakia were led through a maze of situations that might be expected in real life, and pooled together their invaluable inputs into how to best tackle these case scenarios.

The evening's closing moments were a concluding remark by the organizing chairperson Dr. Bibhuti B. Borthakur, followed by a heartfelt vote of thanks by organizing secretary Dr. Shivaji Sharma. A hearty dinner with a number of delicacies on the menu - keeping in mind the occasion of World No Tobacco Day - wound up the evening's events. At final count, 102 people had turned up and registered for the CME.