



THE SITUATION IN CAMEROON



Advocacy Workshop – West African
Region

The Cameroon Team



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Map of Cameroon



Cameroon is sometimes referred to as the **hinge** of Africa



Background



- The former French Cameroon and part of British Cameroon merged in 1961 to form the present country.
- Cameroon has enjoyed stability → devt of agriculture, roads, railways, and a petroleum industry.
- A slow movement toward democratic reform.
- Political power remains firmly in the hands of an ethnic oligarchy headed by President **Paul BIYA**

Cameroon – the People



- Country is divided into 10 provinces – Adamaoua, Centre, East, Extreme-North, Littoral, North, North-West, West, South, South-West.
- Total population – 18 Million
- Infant mortality rate – 65.84 deaths per 1,000 live births
- Life expectancy at birth – 52.86 years
- Total fertility rate – 4.49 children born/woman (2007 est.)

HIV Prevalence



- National HIV Prevalence – 5.5%
- People living with HIV/AIDS as of 2003 – 560,000.
- Death from HIV/AIDS as of 2003 – 49,000
- The Northwest province carries the highest HIV prevalence rate of 8.7%

HIV Prevalence in Cameroon



S #	Region	Prevalence Rate (%)
1	National	5.5
2	North West	8.7
3	Yaoundé	8.3
4	South West	8.0
5	South	6.6
6	West	4.7
7	North	1.7
8	Littoral	5.6
9	Ext North	2.0
10	East	8.6
11	Adamaoua	6.9
12	Douala	4.5
13	Central	4.7

The cancer situation in Cameroon



- Cancer in Cameroon is managed by Provincial Hospitals and Tertiary (Central) Hospitals.
- No National Statistics on cancer prevalence
- Medical practitioners indicate that Cancer was, until recently, rare.
- Hospitals have recorded an increase in referrals in the last ten years.

The cancer situation in Cameroon



- The Medical Oncology Service of the Yaoundé General Hospital (SOMHGY) is the lone specialized center for cancer management.
- The 3 most frequent cancers seen in the SOMHGY (2005 report):
 - Breast cancer 26.54%
 - Lymphomas (17.05%),
 - Kaposi sarcoma (4.19%).

Cancer in Cameroon



- In women, breast cancer accounted for 42% of all cases
- In men, the most frequent cancer was lymphoma, which accounted for 24.06% of cases.
- In children, lymphomas were the most frequent cancer, and accounted for 50% of the cases.

Cancer in Camerron



- Yaoundé General Hospital cancer stats in 2005:
 - Total patients in the last full calendar year – 489
 - Adult cancer patients > 16yr – 457
 - Pediatric cancer patients < 16yrs – 29

Status of Palliative Care



- Palliative care is relatively new in Cameroon.
- The general idea of palliative care is embraced by Government.
- There is no National plan nor written palliative care policy.
- The lone palliative care unit is operated by the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board.

Available Opioids in Cameroon



S/N	DRUG DESCRIPTION	CONDITION	UNIT (CFA)
1	Codeine 30mg	Tablets	16
2	Morphine HCL, 10mg/ml	1 ml amp	435
3	Pentazocine 30mg/ml	1 ml amp	235
4	Pethidine HCL 50mg/ml	2ml amp	298
5	Naloxone HCL, 400umg/ml	1ml, amp	235

Available opioids



Morphine solution used at the
Cameroon Baptist Convention
Health Board

Opioid Availability



- The Government of Cameroon does not restrict the use of opioids.
- Government policy required that the National and International laws be respected.
- Justification is required for use in the palliative care program or pain control.

Needed Opioids and/or Formulations



- We need oral dosage forms of morphine
- Morphine solution currently used by the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board, should be made available for other unit.

Barriers and Challenges to Opioid Availability



- An authorization will always be required for purchase of powder morphine
- Limited expertise in palliative care
- Bias attitude of some medical practitioners (Especially doctors)
- Lack of statistics on disease burden

Challenges



- **Need for health practitioners to appreciate the need to counter pain in HIV/AIDS and Cancer patients**
- **Palliative Care Association to increase expertise and promote advocacy for palliative care**
- **Need to ensure the availability of opioids both in the types of molecules and in the dosage forms**



Merci Pour Vos Attentions



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