

Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) Cancer in Canada

8600 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



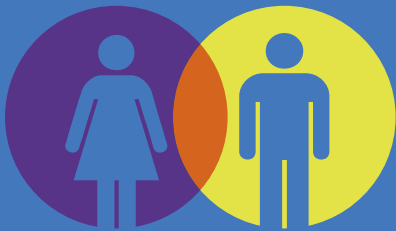
YOUNG WOMEN (15-29)

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 (15-29)

Other cancers include cancers of the soft tissue, bones and joints, colon and rectum, oral cavity and pharynx and kidney cancer. (CCS)

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)

Ontario AYA Cancer Regional Action Partnership (RAP)

Canadian Task Force on AYA with Cancer | www.ayacancercanada.ca

Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) | 1-888-939-3333