

**ECONOMIC BURDEN OF  
LUNG CANCER PATIENTS AT  
YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**PHYU WIN THANT**

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
YANGON**

**2012**

## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted at Yangon General Hospital to explore the economic burden of lung cancer patients as well as the direct and indirect costs incurred by these patients. It was a cross-sectional descriptive study. The results were based on findings on thirty eight patients, who attended at Yangon General Hospital during the study period from 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 to 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2012. Those patients were interviewed by using pretested, semi-structured questionnaires. Vouchers, bills and hospital record books were reviewed. In the study, about 17 respondents (44.7%) were over 60 years old. Male and female ratio was about 4:1. About one third of lung cancer patients were economically dependent. Median household income per month was 200,000kyats. Range of Income was minimum, 60,000kyats to maximum, 900,000kyats. Median of total direct cost was 613,642kyats and that of total indirect cost was 94,500kyats. Minimum amount of total direct cost was 87,000kyats and maximum was 2,229,500kyats. In this study, only income loss of both patients and attendants was calculated as indirect cost. Minimum indirect cost was 12,000kyats and maximum was 1,453,000kyats. Fifty eight percent of patients had high economic burden while the rest 42 percent had low economic burden. Most of the patients used saving as the first financial coping mechanism to cover the cost of treatment for lung cancer. Other coping mechanisms were selling their own assets, depending on support of relatives and friends, borrowing money and pawning their assets. The study provides additional information on the economic burden of lung cancer among patients receiving treatment, in terms of direct cost, indirect cost and total cost from getting the diagnosis of lung cancer till the study period as well as component costs by setting and type of service. The study may be useful in making decision relating to medical resource allocation in this patient population.