

Jordan Times (Homenews)
March 5, 2000

Cancer more common in men — *cancer registry*

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rate of cancer cases in Jordan is estimated at 137 for every 100,000 male inhabitants and 134 per 100,000 females, according to Bassam Hijjawi, deputy director of the Jordan Cancer Registry (JCR).

In comparison, the cancer rate in the U.S. stands at 385 cases per 100,000 males and 273 per 100,000 females, according to Hijjawi, who was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Saturday.

Hijjawi said the Ministry of Health treats cancer patients free of charge and annually allocates JD6 million from the health insurance fund for this purpose.

The JCR, established in 1996, introduced a modern mechanism for the registration of cancer patients and examining what causes the disease according to Hijjawi. He noted that the JCR has prepared a booklet to shed light on causes of the disease and to provide the number of cancer cases in Jordan registered in 1997.

Hijjawi had earlier said that a study of the registered cases found that cancer occurs more frequently in men than in women, pointing out that in 1997, reported cancer cases among men were 3,817, while females diagnosed with cancer numbered 1,840.

Hijjawi said the France-based International Cancer Registration Institution has decided to accept Jordan as a member, and will prepare a detailed report about the cancer cases registered in the Kingdom. The report will be compiled in conjunction with the World Health Organisation.

Hijjawi said that Jordan, Egypt, Cyprus, and the Palestinian National Authority are cooperating with the U.S. to set up a Middle Eastern regional cancer registry.

He said studies conducted so far have attributed nearly 10 per cent of the cancer cases to hereditary factors.