



Prevention is the Key

A Roadmap to Reducing Rates of Gastric
Cancer in China

Takeda

Abstract:

Cancer has become a leading public health issue in China. With the acceleration of industrialization, urbanization and the shift in demographics, the number of cancer cases and related deaths are raising rapidly, further burdening the health care system and the nation at large.

Among the malignant cancers, gastric cancer takes a particularly heavy toll on the China's healthcare and economy due to its high incidence and mortality rate. Global experience has demonstrated that risk factor management, including *H. pylori* screening and eradication and endoscopy screening, can effectively reduce the risk of gastric cancer and associated healthcare expenditures.

Over the past few decades, the Chinese government has made considerable efforts in promoting and stressing the importance of prevention and treatment of gastric cancer. However, there remains an unmet need for patients. First, more attention should be paid to the primary prevention of gastric cancer and there is a significant gap in the level of *H. pylori* prevention and treatment between China and the rest of the world. Second, early diagnosis and treatment need to be improved, especially relating to screening and coverage. Third, there should be greater coordination on gastric cancer prevention and treatment. Finally, the effort and commitment made towards the research and development of gastric cancer prevention and treatment should be enhanced.

Based on the overall strategy of Healthy China 2030 and the current situation of gastric cancer prevention and control, we recommend that the Chinese government take a prevention-oriented approach. Combined with the relevant strategic goals of Healthy China 2030 and the 14th Five-Year Plan, we propose the government establish a roadmap for gastric cancer prevention and treatment, formulate a specialized implementation plan with a focus on risk factor prevention and control, early diagnosis and treatment, comprehensive prevention and control, scientific research and development, and ultimately, the development of a comprehensive nationwide gastric cancer prevention and control system.

To build a comprehensive gastric cancer prevention and control system, we recommend three targeted steps:

Step 1: Obtain breakthroughs in the development of a gastric cancer prevention and control system by 2022, including the establishment of nationwide gastric cancer medical centers, the introduction of official guidelines and action plans on managing gastric cancer risk factors, and initiation of specialized *H. pylori* prevention and control pilot program.

Step 2: Achieve critical progress in the capacity and efficiency of gastric cancer prevention and control by 2025, including the formation of detailed normative rules and

regulations to guide implementation, as well as comprehensive improvement of standardized gastric cancer screening, early diagnosis and treatment.

Step 3: Establish a comprehensive system of gastric cancer prevention and control that covers the entire population by 2030, including the roll-out of a nationwide gastric cancer prevention and treatment model that covers all high-risk groups, gradually reducing the burden of the disease.

In terms of implementation plan, Takeda offers the following recommendations

1. **Enhance the prevention and control of risk factors, and consolidate the foundation of the medical service system.** We suggest that the government publishes the *Implementation Plan on Gastric Cancer Risk Factor Prevention and Control (2020-2030)*, to improve public awareness on prevention and treatment of H. pylori, issue official standard guidelines on gastric cancer risk factor management, regulate H. pylori screening and treatment plan and carry out specialized pilot programs on H. pylori screening, prevention and treatment. Targeting the population of high-risk groups, H. pylori screening rate should exceed 30% by 2025 and 55% by 2030. It is also essential to further educate the public on the importance of early prevention and diagnosis, as well as risk factor management of gastric cancer.
2. **Provide standardized diagnosis and treatment at an earlier stage and improve the capacity and coverage for early screening.** Formulate standardized and comprehensive guidelines on the early diagnosis and treatment of gastric cancer, improving the procedure-based early screening capacity. Build a fully functioning training mechanism that enables primary medical facilities to carry out high-quality early diagnosis and treatment and equip the facilities with competent endoscopy physicians to fill in the talent gap. Accelerate the building and implementation of Cancer Screening and Early Diagnosis & Treatment Centers in county hospitals to improve the network of gastric cancer early diagnosis and treatment. Make preliminary arrangements for the specialty fund on gastric cancer early diagnosis and treatment.
3. **Strengthen comprehensive prevention and treatment and establish national gastric cancer medical centers.** Introduce a comprehensive prevention and treatment plan for gastric cancer, explore the interactive mechanism of primary and secondary prevention and build integrated gastric cancer prevention and treatment model to ensure consistent, efficient and comprehensive medical service.
4. **Make breakthroughs in scientific research to provide intellectual support for the medical practice.** Commit more efforts to tackle the gaps in gastric cancer prevention and

treatment. Increase investment and promote targeted policy support for H. pylori vaccines, specific drugs, fast test kits and instruments and encourage international exchanges that allow practitioners to learn from the cutting-edge technology and best practices.

Treatments for gastric cancer incur burdensome medical costs but the disease can be effectively treated and prevented with an accessible and comprehensive prevention and treatment system. As a leading multinational pharmaceutical company, Takeda is committed to make a contribution towards improving the healthcare services in China, as well as the overall health of the Chinese people.