

Prashanti Cancer Care Mission
Reaching out with excellence



NEWSLETTER

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Prashanti Cancer Care Mission and Orchids Breast Health respond to COVID-19

The unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic that has affected virtually every country in the world including India. All professional domains in India including the medical and healthcare sector in India have responded constructively to the guidelines of Government of India on COVID-19 management. Given the rising number of COVID-19 positive cases in March-April 2020, Pune has been declared as a “red zone” for disease containment since the inception of the national lockdown. As a result, all hospitals and clinics in Pune have been on high vigil.

The COVID-19 crisis has presented huge challenges in cancer management not only to the Oncology fraternity but also to the cancer patients and their families. Cancer patients are among those at high risk of serious illness from an infection because their immune systems are often weakened by cancer and its treatments. Given the high risk of COVID-19 infections, cancer patients have to be handled more diligently by achieving a pragmatic balance between cancer treatment schedules and mitigating COVID-19 risk.

Considering the importance of the topic to global cancer scenario, many professional cancer societies across the world have published useful guidelines for cancer management during the COVID-19 crisis.

Based on these international guidelines and in the medical interest of cancer patients undergoing treatment at Orchids Clinic, PCCM has decided to continue providing emergency support and treatment support to its patients mainly affected by breast cancer. The onco-clinician team at PCCM led by Dr. Koppiker have published a detailed advisory (<https://www.prashanticancercare.org/>) for the safety and well-being of the cancer patients during the lockdown and the fast spread of COVID-19 infection. This advisory describes various important topics in details regarding several aspects of the management of cancer including consultation for radio-diagnosis, surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. In addition, the advisory also elaborates on the topic of diet/nutrition on cancer patients during COVID-19 crisis as well as use of traditional medicines (Ayurveda and Homeopathy), stress management, exercise and mental health issues.

In response to the COVID-19 lockdown in Pune, the PCCM OPD is now operating once a week only for emergency cases on appointment basis only. All Breast MRIs have been postponed to avoid hospital visits. Mammograms and biopsies are deferred as far as possible to avoid hospital visits and protect the patients from the spread of COVID-19. Chemotherapy treatments are being carefully evaluated and offered to high risk patients only if the tumor is inoperable and the patient is ER negative. For hormone positive (ER/PR+) positive patients, oral administration of anti-hormone medicine has been recommended until surgeries can be performed. The in-house chemotherapy day care is fully operational for such patients on selected days. Elective surgeries have been postponed. All preventive surgeries and genetic

testing have been currently postponed unless it has a direct impact on the clinical management of the patient. PCCM onco-clinicians as well as paramedical staff are providing the best possible services through telephonic consultations at any time during the day. The PCCM pink-ribbon support group of cancer survivors is actively involved in communication with cancer patients and their care givers to check-up on their well-being and other needs. Ration supplies have been provided to needy families as part of the PCCM food bank program.

It is likely that the ongoing COVID-19 crisis may continue for extended period in near future. In light of this, PCCM remains committed to providing the best possible services and care to its cancer patients as per international advisories and guidelines from Government of India

Website: www.prashanticancercare.org



1. Dr. C. B. Koppiker was invited as an expert Faculty at the webinar hosted by BARD on 27th April

Dr Koppiker who is internationally renowned for his expertise in Breast Oncoplasty spoke on Breast Conservation Surgery and Role of VABB, as a part of a series of webinars by BARD India.

His affiliations include: Medical Director – Orchids Breast Health, HOD Breast Centre – Jehangir Hospital, Managing Trustee – Prashanti Cancer Care Mission, Faculty & Member of Board of Directors – School of Oncoplastic Surgery, USA, Faculty & Regional Convenor, Oncoplastic Mastership Program – University of East Anglia, UK.

More than seventy doctors from all over the country logged in to this webinar which was followed by a Q&A session.

An opportunity to learn from experts!

BD Biopsy brings to you a series of clinical sessions in the area of Cancer Care



Dr C B Koppiker
Breast Surgeon and Director
Orchids Breast Clinic
Pune



Dr Amar Mukund
Associate Professor
Dept of Interventional
Radiology
ILBS Delhi



Dr Dipanjan Haldar
Consultant Hematologist
Wockhardt Hospital
Mumbai

2. Jehangir Hospital salutes Dr. C B Koppiker and other healthcare workers during the COVID-19 crisis

Jehangir Hospital, Pune applauds and acknowledges the team of healthcare workers fighting at the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

♥ Saluting Our Heroes! ♥



In the face of this extraordinary crisis, you are fighting at the frontline. Your bravery inspires us to endure through these difficult times and emerge victorious together. We Thank you our Real Champions!

#HeroesOfJehangir



3. Distribution of food grains by PCCM to the underprivileged patients during the COVID-19 outbreak

Food grains and ration was distributed to the underprivileged patients during the lockdown in the month of April 2020.



4. Dr. C.B.Koppiker, inducted as a member of Pune Platform for COVID-19 response (PPRC)

Dr. C.B. Koppiker has been inducted as a member of Pune Platform for COVID-19 response (PPRC). PPRC is a group coordinated by Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCAI) which is helping Pune healthcare organizations from public and private sector for their requirements in the COVID-19 crisis. PPRC has been able to procure large scale supply of PPEs, N95 masks, ventilators, hospital supplies, consumables with generous donations from philanthropies and CSR initiatives of corporate sector entities.

5. Dr. Santosh Dixit, Senior Scientist at PCCM invited to be a member of TFORD-COVID19 advisory group

Under the aegis of the S&T Core Group on COVID19, a Task Force focused on Repurposing of Drugs for COVID19 (in short “TFORD-COVID19“) has been constituted by the Principal Scientific Advisor Dr. K. Vijay Raghavan. This task force is coordinated by NCL-Venture Centre, Pune and is mandated to objectively evaluate important scientific information on potential therapeutic strategies for COVID-19 management for decision makers in Government of India agencies. Dr. Santosh Dixit has been invited to be a member of the TFORD-COVID19 advisory group to contribute on topics related to drug development, clinical pharmacology, pharmacovigilance and regulatory aspects.

6. Dr. Santosh from PCCM invited as expert reviewer for proposal evaluation in CAWACH project

The Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) an initiative by National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India announced a call for funding for proposals from Indian enterprises developing deployable solutions for COVID-19. Dr. Santosh Dixit has been invited as expert reviewer for evaluation of proposals submitted to the CAWACH project.

7. Dr. Beenu Verghese, Consultant Radiologist at Orchids Breast Health Clinic was appointed as a committee member of the Breast Imaging sub speciality group of the Indian College of Radiology and Imaging (ICRI)



Dr. Beenu Verghese, radiologist at Orchids Breast Health Clinic, was appointed as a committee member of the Breast Imaging sub speciality group of the Indian College of Radiology and Imaging (ICRI). ICRI is the academic division of the Indian Radiological and Imaging Association (IRIA) the national body. As a breast sub speciality committee member she is responsible for forming national guidelines for breast imaging and education of post graduates.

Testimonials of some of the beneficiaries of Prashanti Cancer Care Mission

1. Dr Pranjali Sheth

Firstly when we came to know about my mom's condition (she is a case of right breast carcinoma) she was totally lost. Body and mind both were out of control. But we came to know about Orchid Breast Health. There were many 'Dilemas' related to disease. After meeting respected Dr. Koppiker sir and all staff here all our doubts and queries were cleared. The way sir all and staff here responded to our queries gave us all family members a feeling of relaxation.

Treatment, care for patients, proper techniques of handling patient with their condition, counselling patients and their relatives, receiving patients call and making adjustments accordingly all go here very smoothly. Utmost attention is paid to each and every patient. The Day care, the place where chemotherapy is being done, all is systematically kept and taken care of.

Thanks to Orchid Breast Health for all such facilities and care.

2. Priyanka Vitkar

My name is Priyanka Vitkar. PCCM had organised health camp in which they conducted breast examination at our place. They checked every woman and called few women in their clinic who had some problems. They have done sonomammography without charging anything. Thanks to their initiative that we now realise the importance of these tests and self-breast examination. It has helped us understand the importance and seriousness of a lump in our body which we earlier assumed to be normal. As much as they educated us, they also provided free testing for these women.

3. Archana Gade

My name is Archana Gade. I am working as traffic Police. PCCM had organised a health camp at Yerwada. In that camp one lump was found in my breast when they checked me. They called me at their clinic and they did my sonography free of cost. The staff is very cooperative and understands the issues that women like us face. They are running very good project and I am requesting women to get themselves checked.

4. Lata Babar

I am Lata Babar. I am working at ASHA. At Bavdhan PHC Prashanti Cancer Care Mission conducted a Breast Cancer Screening Camp. The information given by the team of Prashanti was very useful. They told us the symptoms of the breast cancer. Also, we got the information about the treatment and the diagnosis of breast cancer. They also trained us for self-breast examination. From the session we got the knowledge of the precaution to keep the cancer away and also the care after the cancer. All the ASHA members and workers present for the camp got the information and they were tested by the Prashanti team and all of us liked this camp very much.

5. Sunita Kadam

I am Sunita Kadam, from Bavdhan PHC, Satara. Prashanti organised a camp for our workers to educate us about breast cancer and self-breast examination techniques. The members attending this camp were tested by the Prashanti volunteers and individuals with abnormalities were called to the Orchids Breast Health Clinic for further screening. During this testing, I was found to have a watery discharge from my nipple which had to be further investigated. I underwent sonomammography at the centre free of cost. I was also counselled for my reports which helped me.

6. Medical Officer, ASHA

160 ASHA got the benefit of the Breast Cancer Screening Camp conducted by Prashanti Cancer Care Mission. The team of Prashanti did the breast examination for all ASHA members and also educated them to do it by themselves at equal intervals. Five women had some abnormal symptoms and Prashanti screened them by further tests free of cost. The team of Prashanti had a very interactive session with our workers and delivered the information in very simple language. They are working towards creating awareness in women which can help women identify abnormalities. These women can then approach Orchids Breast Health Centre for further tests.

7. Usha Mahangire

In a health camp organised by PCCM, all the women were checked free of cost. The volunteers of the camp explained to us the breast cancer symptoms and the importance of self-breast examination. The camp helped create awareness among women. PCCM volunteers called few women to their clinic for further testing. I was one amongst the few women who were called in for further investigations. When I went to clinic, they give me moral support which helped me deal with my fears. I got my sonomammography done free of cost as a part of the campaign. Our society today need such initiatives to help women diagnose the abnormalities at an early stage. I am thankful to Prashanti organisation for giving me access to health care facilities and testing.

We would like to ~~THANK~~ our
Donors & Supporters

Prashanti Cancer Care Mission
Reaching out with excellence



Warm Regards,
Ms. Laleh Busheri
CEO

Prashanti Cancer Care mission

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<https://www.facebook.com/orchidsbreasthealth>