

Cancer screening is critical: Docs

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Every year there are one million new cancer cases in India and we need to raise awareness among people about cancer, as cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment are the key, said speakers at the Indo-UK oncology summit held here on Friday.

Inaugurating the summit organised by the Indo-British Health Initiative (IBHI), Lord Kakkar, professor of surgery, University College, London, who is also the Healthcare UK delegation leader said the screening technique should be appropriate for the targeted population. In UK, cancer has been the major area of focus for the past 15 years.

"In the UK, cancer survival rates have doubled in the last 40

● **Health ministry will set up 20 cancer institutes in 20 states and 50 tertiary care centres across the country to tackle disease**

years and half of the people diagnosed with cancer now survive for at least five years," he informed. Stressing the importance of knowing the number of people affected by cancer in India, Dr Kakkar said that data is essential to improve healthcare.

Almost top 100 cancer specialists participated in the summit. Speaking at the inauguration, Dr Damodar Bachani, deputy commissioner, non-communicable diseases, the ministry of health and family welfare, informed that 20 state

cancer institutes will be established in 20 states and 50 tertiary care cancer centres in different parts of the country.

Dr Prithvi Mohandas, founder and secretary, Indo-British Health Initiative, said the summit witnessed an invaluable knowledge transfer between the two nations by sharing latest treatment facilities and infrastructure advancement among others.

Prof Arnie Purushotham, professor of breast cancer, King's College, London, compared the cancer scenario of India and UK and the lessons that could be learnt by India. Dr Rajendra Badwe, director of Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai and Mike Nithavrianakis, British deputy high commissioner, Chennai also spoke on the occasion.