

India, Britain to work out strategies to combat cancer

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Chennai: The UK and India have a high rate of cancers, and now the two countries are moving towards a combined effort to fight the killer. The two-day Indo-UK oncology summit that ended on Saturday analysed the trends and decided to work on synergies.

The summit focused on the 16 most common cancers and latest treatment protocols. "The two nations share similar challenges with cancer. Considering that the UK has advanced treatment modules we could learn from their expertise," said Dr Prithvi Mohandas, founder of Indo-British Health Initiative.

Dr MGR Medical University vice chancellor Dr Shantaram said collaborating with UK would ensure that our oncologists acquire better skills and return home to tailor treatment paths that suit local needs. The UK has achieved a high success rate in reducing the incidence of cancer because it has a need-based approach, said Chelliah Selvasekhar of the UK-based Christie Hospital NHS Foundation. "We can offer expert clinicians, latest equipment, medicine and world class research to help India reduce cancer rate," he said.

Pointing out that any collaboration has to be done on equal footing, Dr Ganapathy Raman, consultant oncologist, Apollo Specialty Hospitals said, "We could learn from the palliative care given in the UK and send our doctors there to train on early detection," he said.