

Pre-Conference CME Session 1

Interventional radiology in the Caribbean

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Interventional radiology is a subspecialty of radiology that has its origins in angiography and has now progressed to encompass a wide range of minimally invasive procedures. The interventional radiology programme in Barbados began at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 2008 and performs image guided diagnostic biopsies, drain insertions, biliary and urinary tract stenting and lower extremity revascularization. We review the utility of interventional radiology in a Caribbean setting.

Cancer screening and the general surgeon: a review of current evidence

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Cancers account for up to 25% of all deaths currently and are projected to overtake cardiovascular diseases as the leading cause of deaths over the next two to three decades. Regionally, leading the pack in both prevalence and cancer related deaths are prostate, lung, breast, cervical and col-

orectal cancers. For prostate, breast and colorectal cancers, all three have well-established screening protocols yet they continue to attract considerable controversy both regionally and internationally. The main question to be asked is do we really have evidence that average risk populations benefit from screening? And is it cost-effective to screen asymptomatic patients especially when the region lags behind in treating symptomatic cancer patients? This region has one of the highest prostate cancer incidence and its various regional urologic societies advocate screening with the combination of digital rectal examination and prostate specific antigen (PSA). Similarly, mammography and colonoscopy (among others) are recommended screening tools for breast and colorectal cancers by the regional radiologists and gastroenterologists, respectively. However, even the higher-incidence resource-endowed countries are now questioning the benefits and methodology of screening given current available evidence. This report will examine the evidence with a view to make recommendations relevant to the region for these common cancers especially when treating for cure in the patients presenting with symptomatic disease is so elusive.