

Doctors have raised a red flag over the rising cases of cancer in Kenya over the last six years.

Their concerns were raised during a symposium that was held by the University of Nairobi College of Health Sciences (CHS) in collaboration with Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) on 24th June, 2016.

The symposium was held at Lecture Theatre III under the theme: *Cancer in Kenya- Bridging the Gap*.

According to the doctors, cancer accounts for high mortality and morbidity in Kenya and that is why it is ranked as the third killer disease in country after AIDS and Malaria.

They say this is so because unlike other diseases that present severe and painful symptoms, some types of cancer present do not do this until they are in late stages.

Dr. Bernard Githae, who represented KNH CEO, Lily Koros noted that there is a big gap in patients' awareness about the disease saying patients need to be diagnosed as early as possible for easy management of the disease.

On his part, Prof. Nicholas Abinya, who represented CHS Principal Prof. Isaac Kibwage revealed that a Medical Oncology Fellowship program will be rolled out in September followed by a masters program on the same in order to improve access to cancer care in the country.

He added that an undergraduate Nursing Oncology course is also coming up.

He said CHS has been involved in a lot of training and research on the same and went ahead to call for more funds to help in this noble course.

Africa Cancer Foundation Chief Executive Officer Dorothy Nyong'o was among the guests at the symposium.