Italian commitment for the control of the breast cancer and the establishment of a multidisciplinary breast unit in Palestine

A two days conference in Bethlehem in the framework of the support of the Italian Cooperation to the Palestinian Health System

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed female cancer, accounting for 30% of all cancers. In 2016, over 500,00 women were diagnosed with breast cancer worldwide (47,000 in Italy only). In Palestine, breast cancer is the first type of cancer reported among females, accounting for 28.9 % of total reported cancer cases among Palestinian females (MoH 2016).

A two days conference has been organized in Bethlehem on the 12th and 13th of February 2018, allowing Italian and Palestinian speakers to exchange experiences in breast cancer care.

During the first day, the current epidemiologic situation in Palestine and the condition concerning breast cancer screening and care in Europe and Palestine have been explored, in order to share experiences, best practices and challenges at the national and international levels. The second day was dedicated to the clinical management of breast cancer: axillary surgery, nipple-sparing mastectomy and breast reconstruction techniques have been discussed among the participants, which included a vast group of Italian speakers.

Brest Units are centers for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up providing an integrated approach to the disease based on the teamwork of a group of dedicated professionals operating within technologically advanced facilities.

Centro ELIS NGO is currently implementing a project funded by AICS Jerusalem aimed at creating the first Breast Cancer Unit in Palestine, with the objective to reach before 2020 an up-to-date international standard as a multidisciplinary, high quality dedicated diagnosis, therapy and follow-up referral center in Beit Jala Hospital.

Italian commitment for the enhancement of the Palestinian Health System is testified also by the results of the project CRONO and the recent signature of a supply agreement to provide equipment for Computed Radiology mammography and other accessories for Palestinian Primary Health Care Centers and Hospitals in Palestine, for a total amount of 500,000 euro.