



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

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COLOMBIA: EARLY DETECTION OF CANCER CRITICAL

VIDEO

TIMELAPESE OR OTHER SCENES OF
COLOMBIA/PEOPLE IN STREETS

MARIA ON-CAMERA
CUT TO MARIA WITH DOCTORS

MARIA WITH HER DAUGHTER
SPEAKING WITH DOCTORS

DOCTORS AT HOSPITAL
PEOPLE IN WAITING ROOM
MASKED FACES

AUDIO

MUSIC
NATSOT - PEOPLE

MARIA CHAPARRO: (In Spanish) F
*"Cancer is an awful word but I made up my
mind to stay positive, because what kills you is
over thinking it and getting depressed."* (9)

NARRATION

In Colombia, some 30,000 lost their lives to
cancer in 2010. Thirty-nine year old Maria
Antonia Chaparro has thyroid cancer. (10)

She lives in Colombia in South America where
cancer rates continue to soar. But this may be
partially due to the fact that patients have
more access to advanced technology and
nuclear medicine pharmaceuticals to detect
the cancer early, and that people are living
longer. (14)

DR. CRISTINA ON CAMERA
SPECIALIST, NUCLEAR MEDICINE

DR. CRISTINA: (In Spanish) F

“Since cancer is an illness more frequently present in older people, the increase in life expectancy also affects the cancer count.”

(15)

CROWDS
MARIA CRISTINA MARTINEZ WALKING
AROUND HOSPITAL CHECKING WITH
DOCTORS AND PATIENTS
IN MEETING

NARRATION

Over the last 50 years, the population in Colombia has tripled. Now 16 percent of all deaths are cancer related. Helping people to develop life saving habits to prevent the disease is vital. (14)

DR. CRISTINA ON-CAMERA

DR. CRISTINA: (In Spanish) F

“30% of cancers are preventable. How could we achieve this? First, promoting healthy lifestyles, promoting programmes that discourage alcohol and cigarette consumption, including more fruits and vegetables in peoples’ diets...and the government should create policies for early diagnosis and screening for uterine and breast cancer.” (36)

MACHINES AT WORK
TECHNICIANS

NARRATION

To assist Colombia, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA, is providing advice and training on how to use nuclear medicine to treat and diagnose cancer. (12)

Hundreds of patients, including Maria Chaparro, come to this hospital for medical check-ups. (6)

HOSPITAL SCENES

NATSOT – ROBOTIC ARMS IN ACTION

ROBOTICS IN USE

NARRATION

It's a place where specialists use sophisticated robotic technology to produce nuclear medicine pharmaceuticals while protecting laboratory staff. (11)

MORE ROBOTIC WORK

NIDIA DELGADO: (In Spanish)

"There are some radioactive isotopes that radiate very intensely. One of those is the positron emitting radionuclides. They have a very high energy. Manual manufacture and usage would highly radiate the person who makes it." (24)

NIDIA DELGADO ON-CAMERA
PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST
HANDLING BOTTLE CLOSE UP
ROBOTIC WORK

NARRATION

PREPARING MEDICINE FOR SHIPMENT
OR TRANSPORT

Now this institution is producing enough nuclear medicine, allowing it to transport and sell to other facilities in the country. (8)

But timing is critical since most medicines expire within minutes, others within days. (7)

NIDIA ON-CAMERA

NIDIA DELGADO: (In Spanish) F

"The radioactive isotope has a very short lifespan, the ones used in diagnosis and treatment of diseases can range between 2 to 3 minutes and 8 to 10 days. // When that time expires, the medicine must be allowed to decay completely and then it must be thrown away." (30)

MAKING IODINE CAPSULES

NARRATION

The institute is also producing its own radioactive iodine treatment, which is vital to treat Maria's thyroid cancer. (7)

DR. CARLOS GOMEZ ON-CAMERA
SURGERY CLIPS
INJECTING PATIENT WITH IODINE

CARLOS GRANADOS GOMEZ: (In Spanish)

M

"Generally, the initial treatment is surgery which consists of removing the tumours, the thyroid glands and other lymph nodes. Depending on the risk they are facing, patients can also get complimentary treatment, which is the radioactive iodine treatment." (25)

NATSOT – THYROID SURGERY

MARIA

NARRATION

Patients must remain in isolation for 24 hours after taking the iodine treatment due to radioactive elements still present in the body. (10)

MARIA CHAPARRO ON-CAMERA
OTHER CUTS OF MARIA

MARIA CHAPARRO: (In Spanish) F

"One would normally want to vomit during the first two hours, so I had to make an effort not to because then the capsule would be wasted." (7)

PEOPLE FROM THE THREE COUNTRIES
AND THE UNITED STATES

NARRATION

While nuclear medicine is highly radioactive, patients make their decision to use it based on the benefit it brings. (7)

DR. CRISTINA ON-CAMERA

DR. CRISTINA: (In Spanish) F

"The benefits outweigh the risks by far." (6)

NARRATION

According to the World Health Organization, WHO, over the next two decades, cancer cases will rise to 22 million worldwide. (10)

MARIA

Maria is determined to do what she must to survive. (5)

MARIA CHAPARRO ON-CAMERA

MARIA CHAPARRO: (In Spanish) F

"...I live day to day and do the most that can be done to get healthy." (5)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations.