

Table 3 Common presentations of cancer, diagnostic clues and initial misdiagnoses

Different clinical and diagnostic parameters	Total no. of patients (%)
Main initial presenting symptoms	
Fever	44
Bone pain/limping/difficulty walking	26
Abdominal pain/enlargement/mass	20
Pallor	16
Lymph node swelling	15
Constipation/diarrhoea, vomiting	8
Swelling (jaw, skull or legs)	7
Bleeding (hematemesis/melena, vaginal bleeding, epistaxis)	5
Cough/respiratory distress	4
Rare: testicular swelling, eye (proptosis), jaundice, priapism, polyphagia/polysonmia	3, 2, 1, 1, 1
Diagnostic clues suggestive of cancer diagnosis	
Complete blood count	57 (41.3%)
X ray	13 (9.4%)
Abdominal ultrasonography	41 (29.7%)
Computed tomography	4 (2.9%)
Magnetic resonance imaging	11 (8.0%)
Biopsy	12 (8.7%)
Misdiagnosis initially (cancer was not suspected)	116 (84.1%)
Common cold/pharyngitis/tonsillitis	17
Arthritis/myositis	15
Anaemia (iron deficiency/favism)	15
Infections (UTI, typhoid, appendicitis, osteomyelitis, septicaemia)	14
Gastroenteritis/gastritis	7
Parasitic infestation (worms)	7
Lymphadenitis	6
Bronchitis/bronchial asthma	4
Radiculitis/disc prolapse/GBS/post-injection injury	4
Hepatitis	3
Bleeding tendency/normal menarche	3
Functional constipation/food poisoning	2
Correctly suspected (malignancy suspected initially)	22 (15.9%)