

Survival of breast cancer in very young women <35 years treated in Tripoli/Libya

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Abstract

Study objective: To study survival of breast cancer in very young age women < 35 years over the period between 2000-2005. To relate recurrence rate and survival to risk factors as lymph node involvement, and estrogen and progesterone status.

Design and Setting: Non-randomized retrospective study in patients with breast cancer confirmed by biopsy in Oncology department in TMC.

Patients: 552 patients were seen, 93 patients < 35 years representing 16.8% were included in this study.

Results: Patients < 35 represent 16.8%. Their stages were not different from older patients, No difference in tumor grade. In the majority of the patients under 35 years estrogen and progesterone receptor status were negative (55.6%), but the majority of the patients over 35 years were estrogen and progesterone receptor positive (55.5%) ($p=0.035$). Visceral metastases were more common in the under 35 years (50%) versus (29%) in patients above 35 years ($p=0.04$). Overall survival rate in very young age at 1st, 2nd and 5th years was 94.5%, 85% and 74% respectively, while overall survival rate in patients above 35 years at 1st, 2nd and 5th years was 96%, 89% and 81% respectively regardless of age. ($p=0.04$).

Overall recurrence rate at 1st, 2nd and 5th years and survival rate was better in node negative patients than node positive patients regardless of age ($p=0.01$). Overall recurrence rate at 1st, 2nd and 5th years and survival rate was better in estrogen positive patients than in estrogen negative patients $p=0.04$.

Conclusion: women < 35 have a poor prognosis despite a similar stage and grade to older women. They have more estrogen and progesterone negative status tumors ($p=0.035$) and greater tendency to develop visceral metastases than older women.