

Male Breast Cancer in Tripoli/ Libya

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ISSN: 2070-254X

Background

Male breast cancer is very rare disease with an incidence of around 0.5%- 1% of the incidence of total breast cancer.

Studies reveal an increase or stable incidence for male breast cancer over the last decades which are different compared with situation for female describing a constantly increasing incidence over the year.

Male breast cancer is more frequently seen in family with mutation of BRCA1 gene but occasionally mutation is seen in BRCA1.

Objective

to study the epidemiology of breast cancer in male patients

Materials and Methods

1568 patients were registered in the period between Jan 1990 till June 2008, 22 patients were as male (1.4%) in Tripoli medical center.

Results

1.4% of patients were male with a mean age of 61 years. They tend to have advanced local disease as 65% of them are T3+T4 and 93.3% have positive lymph nodes.

The preferred surgical treatment was mastectomy and axillary clearance in 65%. 85% are invasive duct carcinoma.

Regarding hormone receptor status, 70% are estrogen and progesterone positive.

71% received chemotherapy as Anthracycline based. During follow up the overall recurrence rate was 47%.

Most common site of relapse was bone in 37.5%. Overall survival rate at 1st, 2nd, and 5th are 82.4%, 64.3%, and 57% respectively. Two patients were brothers, both of them presented at same times as stage IV disease, one died after 9 months with

liver and lung and bone metastases.

The other one lived with bone metastases from Dec2003, till Jan 2008. where presented with multiple lytic lesions negative bone scan and high immunoglobulin infiltration of bone marrow by plasma cell and was diagnosed as multiple myeloma.

Conclusion

In comparison to female patients with breast cancer, male patients are older and they have more advanced disease and have more hormone positive disease