

Survival of Breast Cancer Patients with Brain Metastases

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ISSN: 2070-254X

Study Objective

-To study survival of breast cancer patients with brain metastases.
-to study predictive value of tumor size, lymph node involvement and hormone receptor status on the occurrence of brain metastases and survival of patients with breast cancer

Materials and Methods

805 patients were diagnosed with breast cancer between Jan.2000 till June 2008 and registered in Oncology Department in Tripoli Medical Center.
44(5.5%) patients were included in this study that developed brain metastases diagnosed by CAT scan or brain MRI.

Results

Mean age of these patients was 43.6 years. 72.7% were premenopausal. These patients had large tumor size on diagnosis T3+T4 76.6%.
81.5% were node positive. 70.4% were stage III and IV.
37.5% had isolated brain metastases on presentation. 72.7% has negative hormone receptor status. 86.4 % (38/44) had recurrence at median duration of 16.5 months. Of these 68.4% had brain metastases out of them 53.8% had only brain metastases and 46% had brain and soft tissue or bone metastases.
31.8 % presented as second relapse, all with brain metastases .in 71.4% as isolated brain metastases and 14.3% with brain and soft tissue as liver and lung. All patients received cranial radiotherapy.6/26(23%) of these patients received Cisplatin based chemotherapy.4/6(66.7 %) of them are alive.
Median duration of survival from first recurrence was 5.8 months. Median duration of follow up was 24.5 months. 11/44 are alive.

Conclusion

Patients with brain metastases are mostly premenopausal and have large tumor size, have more node positive disease and negative estrogen receptor status (p=0.001). Their median duration of survival was poor at only 5.8 months.