

Risk of ovarian cancer in breast cancer patients- prognostic factors and time interval

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Abstract

Breast cancer is the most common malignancy diagnosed in women accounting for 23% of all malignancies worldwide. Epithelial ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynecologic cancer leading to 47% of all deaths from cancers of female genital tract. Women with a history of breast cancer have a two-fold higher risk of developing a subsequent ovarian cancer.

Patients and methods: Among 770 patients with cancer breast diagnosed between 1998 to 2005, ten patients developed ovarian cancer. Analysis of various predisposing factors was done retrospectively. These factors included age at first diagnosis, histopathologic subtype, family history and time to diagnosis of secondary ovarian cancer.

Results: Mean age at diagnosis of breast cancer was 43 years (range 34-50). During a mean follow up of 54 months, 10 cases of secondary ovarian cancer were recorded in the study cohort of 770 women with breast cancer. Mean time to ovarian cancer diagnosis was 6 years. Positive family history was recorded in 25% of the patients whose relatives had either breast or ovarian cancer.

Conclusion: In our interim analysis, it was founded that the development of secondary cancer in the study group was higher among younger patients (<40 years) as well as patients with positive family history. Close medical surveillance, and perhaps even prophylactic oophorectomy, might be justified in high-risk group