

## Breast cancer in the elderly (over 65 years)

*Dorothy Makanjuola<sup>1</sup>; Abdulmohsen Alkushi<sup>2</sup>; Manal Alzaid<sup>3</sup>; Omalkhair Abukhair<sup>4</sup>; Fatina Al Taban<sup>1</sup>; Abdulrahman Alhadab<sup>5</sup>; Nouf Abdullah<sup>1</sup>*

*(1) Department of Medical Imaging,*

*(2) Department of Pathology*

*(3) Department of Surgery*

*(4) Department of Oncology*

*(5) Radiation Oncology*

*King Abdulaziz Medical City, National Guard Health Affairs, Riyadh, KSA*

PAJO, December 2012, 5(2): 12-15

### Abstract

**Objective:** To identify the incidence and imaging pattern of breast cancer in the elderly (over 65) with the aim of identifying guidance relating to breast screening in this age group.

**Material and Methods:** From our departmental data system, the number of patients who had mammograms between 2009 and 2011 were calculated and the number over 65 were identified. The total number of cancer patients during that period and those over 65 were identified. An analysis of the imaging findings with standard mammographic, ultrasound, MR, CT and bone scans were made. Pathological findings were also reviewed.

**Results:** Out of 18,482 patients who had mammography, 724 were over 65 making a percentage of 3.9. Out of a total of 523 cancer cases, 59 (11.3%) were over 65 years of age. A pie chart revealed a greater contribution of cancer by this age group. The breast pattern was often involuted making cancer detection easy. Over half the patients with breast cancer who were symptomatic had advanced cancers which were grade 3. Lower grade cancers occurred in various non ductal type of cancers and in the screening population where slow growing tumors were found.

**Conclusion:** Advanced breast cancer with histologic high grade occurred frequently in the symptomatic elderly women while screen detected cancers were small, easily identified and tend to be low grade. Therefore, the findings support breast screening in the elderly population in order to retain a good quality of life.