

## Treatment of elderly breast cancer: Mansoura Experience

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** There is an observed age related difference in treatment of breast cancer. Elderly women are often not treated in accordance with the current guidelines as far as adjuvant therapy is concerned, and this adversely affects their overall survival.

**Patients and methods:** We studied 485 women aged 60 years or older diagnosed between 2004 and 2008 treated in Clinical Oncology & Nuclear medicine department, Mansoura University hospital. Data was collected from registry including age, performance status, tumor characters, and treatment was received. Patients were classified into two groups, first aged 60-70 years and second older than 70 years. Data was analysed statistically to detect factors affecting treatment decision.

**Results:** Median age was 65 years old. Mastectomy and conservative breast surgery performed in younger age group, not significant ( $P=0.061$ ). Anthracyclin chemotherapy was less given to the patients  $>70$  years and was highly significant ( $P<0.0001$ ). Chemotherapy was omitted in 58 patients, main cause of omission was the age in age group  $> 70$  years ( $P<0.0001$ ). Hormonal treatment was administrated more in older age group ( $P=0.026$ ). Adjuvant treatment offered to younger age group after mastectomy and was significant statistically ( $P=0.049$ ). Radiotherapy after CBS used more in younger age with no significant relation ( $P=0.088$ ). Chemotherapy was administrated to the patients with positive lymph nodes more frequently in younger age group showing high significant relation ( $P<0.0001$ ). Overall (OAS) was shorter in older than younger (24 months vs. 37 months respectively,  $P<0.0001$ ).

**Conclusion:** We confirmed that elderly women were substantially undertreated. Geriatric evaluation is recommended when deciding whether and what treatment should be undertaken in older females.