# Earlier breast cancer diagnosis in Egyptian women with positive family history

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## Abstract

**Purpose:** Epidemiological studies showed that 10% of breast cancers (BC) are associated with gene mutations. Family history (FH) is risk factor for developing BC; however, 80% of subjects with apparent familial association with BC based on analysis of pedigree have no specific gene mutation. The aim of our study was to review the impact of presence of positive FH on age and stage at presentation with BC diagnosis.

**Patients and Methods:** Using data recorded from the Cairo Oncology Center database, we retrospectively identified women diagnosed with BC between Jan 1999 & Dec 2008. Variables recorded included: patients, tumor characteristics and FH for BC. Disease free survival (DFS) is calculated and compared according to the presence of positive FH. Multivariate analysis was used to determine independent variables affecting DFS.

**Results:** Between 1999 and 2008, 2103 women were identified in our database with 606 cases having positive FH. Patients with FH were more likely to be <35 years with tumors <5cm and having ER+ve/Her2 –ve phenotype. At median follow up period of 35 months, patients with FH had median DFS of 66.4 months compared to 63.3 months for patients without FH (p=0.927). Using multivariate analysis, FH was not an independent factor affecting DFS; however variables associated with shorter DFS were advanced T stage, node positivity, and ER negativity.

**Conclusion:** Due to lack of national screening program in Egypt, presence of FH raises health awareness towards earlier stage at diagnosis. Although its presence had no prognostic effect on patient's DFS, yet it results in earlier presentation which in turn improves outcome.