

## Breast cancer characteristics in a multiethnic population of the United Arab Emirates

Mohammed Jaloudi<sup>1</sup>, Noura Al Ali<sup>2</sup>, Sami Shaban<sup>3</sup>, Ghada Hassouneh<sup>1</sup>, Mouied Al Ashari<sup>4</sup>, Mohamed Al Bashir<sup>2</sup>

(1) Department of Oncology, Tawam Hospital

(2) Department of Surgery, Tawam Hospital

(3) Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates

(4) Department of Pathology, Tawam Hospital

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) consists of a young multiethnic population. The objective of this study is to identify the characteristics of breast cancer in our multiethnic population and to compare the characteristics of breast cancer (BC) in the native national patients versus the non-national UAE patients.

**Methods:** Results of a database of all breast cancer patients who were diagnosed or treated at our cancer center from April 2008 to May 2009 were retrospectively reviewed. All data of 192 patients, such as the patients' age at diagnosis, ethnicity, type of cancer, and the status of their ER, PR and HER2 receptors were included in the analysis.

**Results:** Out of the total population of 192 patients, 24.0% of our patients were diagnosed at age < 40 with a mean age of 48.92. Invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC) was the most common subtype (92.2%). The incidence of ER+, PR+, HER2+ and triple negative (TN) cancers were 59.4%, 51.0%, 39.1% and 20.8% respectively. The BC characteristics did not differ statistically between nationals and non-nationals patients. The incidence of HER2 positive cancer in patients younger than 40 was 54.3% (P .007).

**Conclusion:** In the multiethnic population of UAE, BC patients younger than 40 are more likely to have HER2 positive tumors in comparison to older patients. BC characteristic are similar between native national and non-national UAE patients.