

25<sup>th</sup> Global

# DIABETES SUMMIT AND MEDICARE EXPO

December 04-05, 2017 Dubai, UAE

## Diabetes mellitus and survival rates in Saudi women with breast cancer

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**Background & Aim:** Several epidemiological studies in the other countries have demonstrated that diabetes mellitus associated with worsening breast cancer outcomes. But there is a lack of published data from Saudi Arabia. Therefore, our study aimed to investigate the effect of diabetes mellitus on the survival years following breast cancer diagnosis and to examine the effect of diabetes mellitus on the breast cancer local recurrence.

**Methods:** A retrospective study of 300 Saudi women who diagnosed with breast cancer between Jan 2006 and Dec 2010 were enrolled. The data was collected from the cancer registry and patient's electronic file in King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center (KFSH&RC). The patients were categorized into diabetic and non-diabetic.

**Results:** 61 patients out of 300 died within the period of 5 years; 35 cases (17.6%) were in the non-diabetic group and 26 cases (25.4%) in the diabetic group. The Kaplan-Meier analysis showed that the 5-year estimates for overall survival rates were 74% and 82% in the diabetic and non-diabetic groups respectively ( $P=0.027$ ). After adjusting for clinical pathological factors, diabetic group had significantly higher mortality risk than non-diabetic groups [HR, 1.73; (CI 1.01-2.9);  $P=0.044$ ].

**Conclusion:** While our study concluded that diabetes mellitus is associated with higher mortality risk in breast cancer patients among Saudi women, there were no association with increased risk of local recurrence.

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