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An evaluation of nonpalpable screen detected breast cancer in urban population in India: A tertiary care centre study

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Introduction: An increase in awareness of breast cancer and screening mammography has led to increase in the detection of non-palpable breast cancers. Very little data is available on the key features of such tumors in our country. According to the latest Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), statistics, breast cancer is the most common cancer among Indian women with an estimated 1.5 lakh (over 10 per cent of all cancers) new cases during 2016. There in an increase in the incidence of breast cancer in younger women both globally and in India. To our knowledge no study which looks at screen detected breast cancers has been done so far in India. According to the National Cancer Registry almost 48% of breast cancer patients currently are below 50 of age in comparison to 25 years back when 69% of the patients were over fifty years of age.

Aim: The aim of this study was to analyse the characteristics of non-palpable breast cancers and to compare these tumors in pre (<50yrs) and post menopausal women (>50) at a tertiary care centre in urban setting in India.

Methodology: This study included 146 cases of biopsy proven *in-situ* and invasive malignancies. It was then divided into two groups based on age less than and more than 50 years. Data was collected from the available medical records and then statistically processed.

Results: It was seen that non-palpable screen detected malignancies showed smaller T size, higher ER positivity, lower grade and rare propensity for lymph node and systemic metastasis. Pre-menopausal patients however showed more cases of triple negative and HER2 positive tumors menopausal patients however showed more cases of triple negative and HER2 positive tumors along with higher lymph node positivity.

Conclusions: Screening mammogram with biopsy diagnosis in suspicious breast imaging reporting and data system (BI-RADS) lesions is an important part of management of patients with non-palpable screen detected breast lesions. It provides better prognosis in patients harbouring malignancy due to early detection, smaller size of the tumors and favourable prognostic factors. Breast cancer screening is not a method of prevention in India partly because of the cost and also because breast cancer awareness has not fully permeated the society. Nevertheless, the introduction of sonomammogram with increased awareness of breast cancer in urban cities of India has led to an increased detection of non-palpable breast lesions that cannot be detected through physical examination. This has led to an increased detection of malignancies as well as various non-malignant and premalignant entities in the breast. Image-guided biopsies are performed for abnormalities detected by sonomammogram, which prevents a considerable number of patients from undergoing surgical interventions requiring longer hospital stay and higher cost.

Biography

Anita S Bhaduri has completed her MD from Kanpur University. She is a Consultant Histopathologist at P D Hinduja Hospital & MRC, a premier tertiary care multispeciality hospital at Mumbai. She has published more than 46 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute of several journals. She currently holds the Position of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of IAP-Indian Divion and has served as a Councillor on the same committee earlier. She has received the British Council TCTP Award and a Trained Assessor with the College of American Pathologists.

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