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A Study on Pattern of Breast Cancer Presentation at UHKDU Oncology Unit

SL Malaviarachchi, J Balawardane, NRP Perera, AN Senanayake, U Thilakaratne, S Balakrishnan and S Liyanage

Department of Oncology, University Hospital, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

#sachinirasnayake@yaho.com

Breast cancer is the commonest malignancy in women worldwide. The relationship between age and mode of presentation has been controversial due to numerous factors. There are non modifiable risk factors such as family history and genetic variations that play a part in the incidence of breast cancer in young women. A retrospective study was conducted to analyze the epidemiology of breast cancer patients treated at UHKDU oncology/ oncosurgery unit from 20th November 2019 to 30th July 2020. Total population was analysed by age at presentation, stage, modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors. Three age groups were identified; those under 35 years, 35 - 50, and post-menopausal women over 50, and compared with relation to the mode of presentation and type of risk factors. Grading and staging of the tumor was done according to the histology. Study population of 26 was analysed according three age groups. Most of the patients were from the Colombo and Gampaha Districts and from post-menopausal age group (no, %) as copared with national (%) and international (%).. The commonest histological type among all age groups was infiltrative ductal carcinoma of no special type while 50% of the population had a positive family history of cancer. These figures are significantly higher than the national and international figures. Approximately 5-10% of breast cancer is considered as hereditary. 70% of all patients were diagnosed at the Stage IIA to IIIB and 15% in stage I. The study showed a very strong family history. This is a non modifiable risk factor and brings up the need to do genetic testing for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations. This finding leads to the need for study wider population among same community and need further analysis for genetic predisposition and render further genetic studies to recognize the patterns of familial breast cancer risk in the community. Another important finding was the stage at presentation. Majority were stage II &III and all were self diagnosed. This highlights the need of National Cancer Screening for breast cancer leading early diagnosis and for better survival.

Keywords*: Breast cancer, Oncology, Generic variations, Family history, Genetic predisposition*