

Factors contributing to delayed diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and its outcome in Jamhoriat Hospital Kabul, Afghanistan

Ahmad Jawad Fardin

French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children, Afghanistan

Over 60% of patients with breast cancer in Afghanistan present late with advance stage III and IV, a major cause for the poor survival rate. The objectives of this study were to identify the contributing factors for the diagnosis and treatment delay and its outcome. This cross-sectional study was conducted on 318 patients with histologically confirmed breast cancer in oncology department of Jamhoriat Hospital, which is the first and only national cancer center in Afghanistan, data were collected from medical records and interview conducted with women diagnosed breast cancer, linear regression and logistic regression were used for analysis. Patient delay was defined as time from first recognition of symptoms until first medical consultation and doctor form first consultation with a health care provider until histological confirmation of breast cancer.

The mean age of patients was 49.2 ± 11.5 years. The average time for final diagnosis of breast cancer was 8.5 months, most patients had ductal carcinoma 260.7 (82%). Factors associated with delay were low education level 76% poor socioeconomic and cultural conditions 81% lack of cancer center 73% lack of screening 19%. The stage distribution was as follow stage IV 4.22% stage III 44.4% stage II 29.3% stage I 4.3%. Complex associated factors were identified to delayed diagnosis of breast cancer and increased adverse outcome consequently raising awareness and education in women, establishment of cancer centers and providing accessible diagnosis service and screening, training of general practitioners required to promote early detection, diagnosis and treatment.

Biography

Ahmad Jawad Fardin is a senior at Department of Adult Medicine, French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children, Kabul, Afghanistan. As a clinician, he has rich experience of treating oncology patient and one of the first oncology doctors in Afghanistan. He worked in first and only oncology center in Jamhoriat Hospital. He was also joined as medical director in Agha Medical Center and currently working in French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children. He independently completed a research project entitled "Factors contributing to delayed diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and its outcome in Jamhoriat hospital Kabul, Afghanistan".