

THE ROLE OF COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY ON UPSTAGING OF BREAST CANCER IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED ASYMPTOMATIC BREAST CANCER PATIENTS AT TEACHING HOSPITAL JAFFNA

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Introduction: The treatment of breast cancer depends on the stage of the disease at diagnosis. However, the latest literature confirms that the use of advanced imaging is on the rise in staging breast cancer.

Objective: The purpose of the study was to look at the number of patients that were upstaged to stage IV by performing a CT scan of Chest abdomen and pelvis in all asymptomatic patients who were diagnosed with breast cancer and referred to the Oncology Unit of Teaching Hospital Jaffna between 17th March 2012 and 31st March 2014.

Methodology: Secondary data of newly diagnosed breast cancer patients referred to the Cancer Treatment Unit with histology proven invasive carcinoma of the breast, asymptomatic for metastatic disease at diagnosis and had a normal CXR and USS of abdomen were collected by using data extraction forms and were analysed by using SPSS 16 computer package.

Results & discussion: This is an ongoing study and collected data of 106 patients are presented. Mean age of the population was 54.4 years (SD=10.5years) with the age range of 27 to 77 years. Most of the patients 45(42.4%) belonged to overall stage II. Another 43 (40.5%) were overall stage III. CT scan was positive in 17 (16%) and 4 (3.8%) were suspected for metastasis. Among the positive patients, five had more than one metastasis. Majority of the metastasis 13 (50%) had the bone metastasis. Rest of them had liver mets-6 (23.1%), lung mets-3(11.5%) and other sites -4 (15.4%). Overall stage of the patients were upstaged in 17 (16%) after the CT scan. The percentage is very high among the reported literature.

Conclusion: Considerable numbers of cancer case were upstaged after the CT scan of Chest abdomen and pelvis.