

BREAST CONSERVING THERAPY WITH RADIATION THERAPY RESULTS IN OUTSTANDING SURVIVAL RATES

STUDY SHOWS EXCELLENT SURVIVAL IN COMMUNITY-BASED CANCER CARE

A recently published study in *The Journal of Community and Supportive Oncology* shows that community based breast-conserving surgery (BCS) in conjunction with radiation therapy for early stage breast cancer patients resulted in overall survival rates better than the national average. The study was funded by Vantage Oncology, and co-authored by Vantage Oncology and Valley Radiotherapy Associates Medical Group (VRA) physicians.

Survival rates for women with breast cancer have been steadily improving over the past several decades. The purpose of this collaborative research was to determine rates of BCS in a large urban community, overall survival after conservation therapy, identify risk factors for survival and compare these with national rates.

IN THIS STUDY:

As part of the study, 1,172 patients diagnosed with T1-2, N0 breast cancer between 1997-2007 were identified in the Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, Burbank, Calif. hospital tumor registry. These results were compared to the rates of BCS and adjuvant radiation therapy with a similar population in the SEER [Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results] database (N = 232,898) for the same treatment period.

RESULTS:

Results showed the rate of breast-conserving surgery (BCS) was:

- Higher in the studied practice compared with the national average (90.9% and 66.4%, respectively)
- The rate of adjuvant radiation after BCS in the studied practice was 93.7%, which was also very high as compared to the national average of 74.4 percent.
- The survival estimates were higher for patients treated with BCS and adjuvant radiation in the studied practice across all age groups (92.5%) compared with the national estimates (82.4%).
- The rate of adjuvant radiation after BCS in the practice was 93.7%, very high given the marked variability that occurs across the US.

CONCLUSION:

High rates of BCS and adjuvant radiation in early-stage breast cancer patients in a community-based practice resulted in excellent survival rates that compared favorably with those in large academic centers and emphasizes the role of appropriate use of adjuvant radiation. These data give reassurance that patients can have superb survival results with BCS and radiation rather than more aggressive surgery.

In an effort to progress toward value-based payments from the traditional fee-for-service model, Vantage's affiliated physician practice in California, VRA, recently partnered with Anthem Blue Cross of California in an agreement to create a single episode-of-care payment for patients with a breast cancer diagnosis requiring radiation therapy treatment.

BCT THERAPY 10-YEAR SURVIVAL BY AGE WITH AND WITHOUT RADIATION THERAPY

BCS, Breast Conserving Surgery; SEER, Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results
10-year survival estimate, % (95% confidence interval)

Age group, y	SEER Database (N = 232,898)			Local Tumor Registry (N=1,172)	
	Mastectomy	BCS without Adjuvant Radiation	BCS with Adjuvant Radiation	BCS without Adjuvant Radiation	BCS with Adjuvant Radiation
All Patients	72.1 (71.7-72.5)	66.5 (65-67.1)	82.4 (82.2-82.8)	72.9 (60.5-82.0)	92.5 (90.7-94.0)
Patients <50	89.2 (88.6-89.8)	89.2 (88.2-90.0)	92.2 (91.8-92.61)	87.5 (38.7-98.1)	98.3 (95.4-99.3)
Patients 50-69	82.8 (82.3-83.4)	82.2 (81.3-83.0)	88.3 (88.0-88.7)	92.9 (74.4-98.2)	96.0 (94.0-97.4)
Patients ≥70	47.6 (46.7-48.4)	39.4 (38.2-40.5)	62.7 (61.8-63.5)	50.5 (31.8-66.6)	77.5 (71.3-82.5)

Source: Tao ML, Mautner BD, Ray HE, et al. Long-term Community-based Results of Breast Conserving Therapy in Early-stage Breast Cancer. JCSO 2016;14:249-254.

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