

2nd Global Summit on

ONCOLOGY & CANCER

March 12-14, 2018 Singapore

Characteristics and treatment outcomes of male breast cancer reported to regional cancer centre, India

Ravi Kiran Pothamsetty

Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, India

Breast cancer in men is a rare disease and it is not commonly encountered in the oncological practice. Most of them in the society especially in Indian culture where breast cancer in males are not frequently seen, harbor the notion that breast cancer is a disease of females and males can afford to get any cancer but not breast cancer. The study designed to determine the proportion of male breast cancer and clinical outcomes reported to regional cancer centre, India. This retrospective study was carried out in the department of radiation oncology and all male patients that had histological diagnosis of breast carcinoma from January 2013 to January 2015 were included. The patients were followed up regularly and clinical status of the patients were assessed and recorded at the end of July 2017. During the study period, male breast cancer accounts for 0.5% of all diagnosed cancer cases among males and 2.5% of all breast cancer cases reported to the hospital. At the end of last follow up, loco-regional failures, disease free survival and overall survival analysis showed 1 (4%), 10 (43%) and 17 (74%) patients, respectively. Distant metastasis was observed in 5 patients (22%). Only 1 patient (4%) during the last follow up reported to have 2nd primary malignancy in gall bladder, 4 patients (17%) lost to follow up and 2 patients (9%) encountered death. Breast cancer does occur in males although its incidence is low, the psychological and social domains to be kept aside and the issue to be addressed seriously.

wildfire194@gmail.com

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