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Clinical characteristics, demography and outcome trends of adjuvant anthracycline- and taxane based chemotherapy regimen in early-stage breast cancer- A single centre experience of 264 patients

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Background: Anthracycline- and Taxane based chemotherapy regimen remains the gold standard for the adjuvant chemotherapy treatment of early-stage breast cancer. However, the knowledge on the use and effectiveness of this treatment regimen in real-world setting is limited. This study examined the treatment trends of adjuvant anthracycline- and taxane based chemotherapy regimen in the routine clinical practice at a single tertiary care cancer centre in India.

Methods: Patients with histologically or cytologically confirmed early breast cancer who underwent primary breast surgery followed by adjuvant treatment with anthracycline- and taxane based chemotherapy regimen at Medanta Cancer Institute between 2010 and 2015 were included in the study. Data on clinical characteristics and treatment details was collected from the patient's medical records. Invasive Disease Free Survival (IDFS) was taken as the primary efficacy endpoint.

Results: Two sixty four patients were included in the analysis. There were 262 women and 2 men with a median age of 50 years (range 24-76 years). Among the 262 women, 107 (40.5%) were premenopausal and 157 (59.5%) had reached menopause. The laterality of breast was left in 144 (54.5%), right in 116 (43.9%) and bilateral in 4 (1.6%) patients respectively. 93 (35.2%) patients underwent breast-conserving surgery (BCS) and 171 (64.7%) modified radical mastectomy (MRM). Grade of tumor was 1, 2 and 3 in 19, 140 and 105 patients respectively. Tumor Focality was single in 215 (81.4%) patients and multiple in 49 (18.6%) patients respectively. The median number of nodes dissected were 17 (range 1-74) with > 4 positive nodes in 60 (22.7%) patients. Estrogen, progesterone and HER-2 receptors were positive in 154 (58.3%), 143 (54.2%) and 8 (3%) patients respectively whereas 102 (38.6%) patient had triple negative disease. Although the overall HER-2 receptor positivity in our breast cancer data is 25.2% (181 out of 717 patients), the above data of 3% represent the subset of patients that were treated with anthracycline-and taxane based chemotherapy regimen. At a median follow-up of 37 months (range 1-99 months), the IDFS was 83.6%.

Conclusion: The preliminary results of this study confirm the clinical utility of anthracyclines- and taxanes based chemotherapy regimen in the adjuvant chemotherapy treatment of early-stage breast cancer. Further follow-up will be undertaken to assess the long term utility of this treatment regimen.

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