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## Neoadjuvant chemotherapy rates in Australia: Where are we?

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**Background:** Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy (NACT) has become an important part of managing breast cancer internationally. NACT has the potential to downgrade disease to allow less morbid operations and better prediction of prognosis based on response.

**Aim:** To analyze the use of NACT in Australia and compare internationally.

**Methods:** A literature search of published data regarding the use of neoadjuvant therapy in breast cancer was performed together with a review of the Breast Surgeons of Australia and New Zealand quality audit data.

**Results:** Reports from the National Cancer Data Base from America shows 17% and 79% use of NACT in stage II and stage III diseases respectively. The use of NACT also increased from 2006 to 2011 in the United States (13.9% to 20.5%). The average use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in Australia is 4.43% of all breast cancer in 2011-2016. The rate of use rose from 3.08% in 2011 to 6.65% in 2016. For tumors larger than 20 mm, the use of NACT has risen from 6.79% in 2011 to 15.16% in 2016. 8.8% of triple negative cancer received NACT in the study period.

**Conclusion:** This is the first study reporting the rate of NACT in Australia. While there is a rise in the use of NACT, this is less than the United States.

### Biography

Yick Ho Lam has completed his Medical studies in the University of Adelaide and he is currently a SET General Surgery trainee with the Royal Australasian College of Surgery in South Australia. He has Master's degree in Public Health and is pursuing Masters in Health Administration.

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