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Winnie Yeo

Prince of Wales Hospital- Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Incidence of hyperlipidemias among premenopausal Chinese breast cancer patients after adjuvant cytotoxic chemotherapy

The outcome of patients with early breast cancer is improved by adjuvant chemotherapy. However, chemotherapy may be associated with long term side-effects. In this prospective cross-sectional study, the objectives were to determine the incidence of hyperlipidemias and the associated factors among premenopausal Chinese breast cancer patients after adjuvant chemotherapy. Eligibility criteria included Chinese patients with stage I-III breast cancer who were aged less than 45 at diagnosis. They should have received adjuvant chemotherapy, and should be within 3-10 years after diagnosis. Individual characteristics, anti-cancer treatments, body weight and height at the time of diagnosis prior to chemotherapy were collected. At study entry, patients had body weight and fasting blood lipids were determined. Incidence of chemotherapy related amenorrhoea and menopause were determined. Factors associated with hyperlipidemias were analyzed. 280 patients entered the study. The median time from breast cancer diagnosis was 5.0 years. 91% developed chemotherapy related amenorrhoea; 49% had become menopausal while 10% were peri-menopausal. At study entry, the mean weight gain was 1.8 kg; 52% were overweight or obese. Abnormal total-cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol and triglyceride levels occurred in 34.3%, 56.1%, 6.6% and 22.9% respectively. Overweight or obese and age were associated with hypercholesterolemia. Tamoxifen was associated with reduced risk, while older age, corticosteroid premedication and having increase in BMI categories were associated with increased risk of abnormal LDL-cholesterol. Clinicians need to increase awareness of hyperlipidemias which occurs frequently after adjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Biography

Winnie Yeo is currently a Clinical Professor of the Department of Clinical Oncology, Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has completed his Graduation from King's College Hospital, University of London. She has completed her Post-graduate Training from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, King's College, Westminster and Royal Marsden Hospitals in London. She is the past Chairman of the Medical Oncology Specialty of the Hong Kong College of Physicians. She has served in expert panels and committees within the university, Hong Kong Hospital Authority and various professional boards. She has authored and co-authored over 200 papers.

winnie@clo.cuhk.edu.hk