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Delaying the start of radiotherapy and its relationship with recurrence and mortality in stage 0, I AND II breast cancer patients: A retrospective observational study

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Radiotherapy is used to complement conservative surgery in early stages of breast cancer and this combination achieves the same results in local control and survival as radical surgery. An important factor for local control is the time between surgery and starting RT. Evidence suggest that delays in the start of RT may have negative effects on treatment outcome and negative implications for local control; however, there is no consensus on how long the starting of RT can be delayed after surgery without undesirable effects. We conducted a retrospective study including women with a primary diagnosis of breast cancer stage 0, I or II who underwent breast conserving surgery or mastectomy and treatment with radiotherapy, and we evaluated the appearance of recurrences and mortality 5 years after diagnosis. Patients were separated into two groups as a function of delay of radiotherapy beginning (≤ 6 weeks or more than 6 weeks). The mean age of women were 54 years ($SD=9.5$), the stage was I or II in 81.7% of them, and all of these received chemotherapy. 5.8% ($n=16$) of patients had a recurrence ($n=16$) and 2.9% ($n=8$) died within 5 years after diagnosis, half of them 4 (50%) due to neoplasm. 12 recurrences (75%) appeared in patients who began radiotherapy after 6 weeks of last treatment (surgery or chemotherapy). No significant differences were found in the probability of recurrence between two groups ($p=0.233$; OR 2.546 [0.548-11.837]). No significant differences were found either in the risk of dying $p=0.680$; OR 1.432 [0.260-7.896].

Biography

Lasso Varela A has completed her PhD at the age of 25 years from Cantabria University (Spain) and she became specialist in Radiation Oncology from San Sebastian Oncologic Institute (Spain). She has worked as specialist in Radiation Oncology being in charge of treating breast cancer patients for more of ten years in Txagorritxu Hospital in Vitoria, Spain. At the present she works as radiation oncologist in Cruces Hospital, Vasque Country, Spain.

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