

## A systematic review on management of breast cancer patients during the Covid 19 pandemic: To assess if there was a Clinical delay in treatment and patient perception on delayed treatment. Literature review of the current covid 19 management guidelines for breast cancer patients

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### Statement of problem:

During the peak of Covid19 pandemic, healthcare organizations had to restructure to ensure management of covid 19 patients as well as cancer patients. The aim of this study is to assess if there were delays in the management of breast cancer patients in the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Europe and did the patient report that there were delays in their treatment during the pandemic compared to pre pandemic.

### Methods:

A systematic review was conducted in 2021 after an extensive search in PubMed (Medline) and Ovid (Cochrane) databases. The articles were extracted in the first stage based on titles and in the second stage they were extracted by titles and abstracts. 21 articles were assessed out of which 10 articles were further evaluated via Quads-2 tool quality assessment tool. The inclusion criteria were that the studies that were published between March 2020-March 2021, and were conducted in the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Europe. They were written in English language.

### Results:

744 articles were found, out of which 723 studies were excluded during screening and remaining 21 studies

were selected for full text reading out of which 11 studies didn't meet the criteria and finally 10 studies were selected for quality assessment. Breast outpatient clinics services saw an increase in

delays during the covid 19 pandemic followed by breast imaging whilst breast cancer surgeries were not affected significantly. Similarly, the patients reported maximum delays in breast cancer outpatient follow up followed by breast imaging and breast cancer surgery.

### Conclusion:

The services affected with the most delays were in coherence with the guidelines set out by the American Society of breast Surgeons, The European society for Medical Oncology and the European consortium.

### Recent Publications

Kasturi CR, Shah R, Carone M, Mihaimeed F, Saunders J. P052: Advancing the age limit for core biopsy for U2 ultrasound lesions- Are we ready? *European Journal of Surgical Oncology*. 2020 Jun 1;46(6):e24.

### Biography

**Riddhi Shah** is a junior surgical doctor working in the NHS. This abstract was the topic of her thesis for Msc. In Laparoscopic skills and Surgical skills from [Queen Mary University London, UK](#). Professor Bijendra Patel is the supervisor for the thesis and professor of surgery for laparoscopic and surgical skills.

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