

<https://doi.org/10.29289/259453942022V32S2039>

OBSTACLES FACED BY BREAST CANCER PATIENTS: FROM EARLY DIAGNOSIS TO TREATMENT DIAGNOSIS TO TREATMENT

Christina Souto Cavalcante Costa¹, Rosemar Macedo Sousa Rahal^{1,2}, Leonardo Ribeiro Soares^{1,2}, Gustavo Nader Marta³, Debora Sara de Almeida Cardoso^{1,2}, Rafaela Dutra Silva^{1,2}

¹Universidade Federal de Goiás – Goiânia (GO), Brazil.

²Universidade Federal de Goiás, Centro Avançado para Diagnóstico de Doenças da Mama – Goiania (GO), Brazil.

³Hospital Sírio Libanês – São Paulo (SP), Brazil.

Objective: The objective of this study was to evaluate the factors that influence the early detection and initiation of treatment of patients with breast cancer. **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional, descriptive study, conducted between January and December 2020. A structured study was carried out with 102 patients from a tertiary service in the central region of Brazil. **Results:** There was a prevalence of women aged 41–60 years (66%), of brown ethnicity (56.9%), and who had completed elementary school (52.9%). In total, 58.8% of women sought the health service annually and 50.0% had never realized mammography (MMG) before the initial symptom, being “nodule” the most cited finding (80.4%). Among the difficulties faced in making the first appointment, fear of the diagnosis was the most cited (83.3%). MMG and biopsy were performed in 56.9% and less than 4 weeks in 56.9% of cases, respectively. In contrast, returns with the result of mammography and biopsy were 67.6% and 71.6%, respectively. In 77.5% of the cases, the specialist consultation after the biopsy occurred within less than 4 weeks and the beginning of treatment in 53.9% of the samples. As for the tumor characteristics, 61.8% of the patients had a positive axilla, 48.0% had tumor stage (G2), and 21.6% with IIIB staging. We observed a predominance of Luminal HER tumors (33.3%) and a mean Ki-67 of 33.46% (± 21.22), with 8.8% of metastatic patients at diagnosis. **Conclusion:** In this sample of women users of the public health service, low awareness and low MMG coverage were observed, culminating in a higher prevalence of advanced stages at diagnosis. Confronting the obstacles related to the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer can attenuate the socioeconomic differences and improve the oncological outcomes in this population.

Keywords: Breast neoplasms. Unified health system. Early cancer detection. Women’s health.