

SURVIVAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER RECEIVING ANTI-RETROVIRAL THERAPY FOR HIV.

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BACKGROUND

Breast cancer survival in Sub-Saharan Africa has been reported to be poor, with an estimated 5 years survival of about 50% when compared to 90% in high income countries. How HIV and ART affect the survival among breast cancer patients remains unknown.

METHODS

Participants were female patients newly diagnosed with invasive breast cancer from May 2015-September 2017 at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. We analysed the overall survival, defined as time from the histological diagnosis of invasive breast cancer to death. We also compared survival between the HIV positive and HIV negative patients. Among the HIV positive group, we compared survival between patients who were HIV positive for less than or greater than one year, patients on ARVs and those not on ARVS as well as those patients with detectable and undetectable HIV viral load. Ethics clearance was obtained from Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical) committee at University of Witwatersrand.

RESULTS

Of 1019 patients enrolled, 22% were HIV positive. With a median follow up of 23.2 months (12-31.8), the overall survival was 85%, 73.8% and 65.3% at 1 year, 2 years and 3 years, respectively. Corrected for stage of disease at presentation, the HIV status and the duration of HIV seropositivity did not affect the overall survival during the duration analysed. Patients not on ARTs at diagnosis had a poorer overall survival than those on ARTs (40.2 % vs 65.4 %).

CONCLUSION

We did not find differences in survival except for patients not on ART who had a poorer survival compared to patients on ART at diagnosis. Our study is limited by sample size and a short follow-up. Long term follow up is required to confirm these findings.