

Letter to the Editor

History of Surgery is an Important Risk Factor for Breast Cancer

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Dear Editor

We read the interesting article entitled 'Association Assessment among Risk Factors and Breast Cancer in a Low Income Country: Bangladesh' by Ahmed et al (2015). Like similar studies exploring associations among breast cancer and risk factors (Ebrahimi et al., 2014; Hajihosseini, 2015; Wang et al., 2015), the recent study you published unfortunately fails to investigate relation of a very important risk factor, history of surgery, with breast cancer. In Iran, as a developing country, breast cancer has the first rank among women's cancers with 8090 new cases annually resulting in more than 1300 deaths per year (Akbari et al., 2011). We performed a cross-sectional study which was conducted on 500 patients referred to the radiology department in Fatemeh hospital (mammography unit) in 2014, Hamadan, west of Iran. In this study, the report of mammography among women who were referred to radiology department Fatemeh hospital was used and history of breast surgery had significant relation with breast cancer. Of 500 patients, 57.1% came for periodic review and 42.9% had especial problems. The majority of patients had high density (47.5%).

The incidence of breast cancer increases linearly by aging after menopause and the most probable age to develop breast cancer 25 to menopause (Longo et al., 2012). The most common complaint of patients was breast pruritus (10%) and 92.5% patients did not have breast secretion. However, repeated biopsies can be considered as a risk factor for breast cancer, but biopsies information has not been available to researchers in this study. The main finding is that, history of breast surgery had relation with breast cancer ($P=0.04$). Some studies have shown that breast cancer patients with history of surgery has worse prognosis than others (Bertozzi et al., 2015).

Based on results, due to the lower age of incidence of breast cancer in Iranian women than the global rate and that breast cancer is curable in case of early diagnosis, it seems that health authorities should pay more attention to training and promotion of screening of breast cancer. Also, according to the importance of history of surgery in breast cancer, there is a need to take special care of the patients after surgery to ensure that the risk of a relapse is reduced.

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