

Chemotherapy history and its association with menopausal symptoms and impaired quality of life in breast cancer survivors

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This research is part of the CAVICSEN project (Quality of Life in Survivors of Breast Cancer)

OBJECTIVE

to estimate the association between the history of chemotherapy with the presence of menopausal symptoms and the deterioration of the quality of life in postmenopausal women of middle age or older adults, survivors of breast cancer (BC)

MATERIALS & METHODS

Cross-sectional study carried out in postmenopausal women, with one or more years since the diagnosis of BC and residents of Cartagena, Colombia.

A form was applied that explored sociodemographic characteristics, clinical history and Menopause Rating Scale (a tool that identifies the presence and severity of menopausal symptoms and somatic, psychological, urogenital impairment and quality of life).

Statistical analysis was performed with EPI-INFO-7.

Nineteen unadjusted logistic regressions were performed: dependent variable (each of the menopausal symptoms, presence of somatic, psychological, urogenital, or quality of life impairment, as well as severe impairment) and independent variable (history of chemotherapy).

OR [95%CI] was calculated
p<0.05 value was statistically significant.

RESULTS

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA N=291	CHEMOTHERAPY NO n=36 (12.3%)	CHEMOTHERAPY YES n=255 (87.6%)
	X±SD	
Age (years)	59.5±8.2	58.1±9.4
BMI	27.4±3.8	26.8±4.5
Age of menopause (years)	46.9±6.5	46.2±6.2
Months of BC diagnosis	74.3±83.8	69.9±60.2
Years of study	12.1±5.0	10.2±5.2
	n, % [95%CI]	
Mestizo	31 (86.1) [70.5-95.3]	210 (82.3) [77.1-86.8]
Housewife	27 (75.0) [57.8-87.8]	210 (82.3) [77.1-86.8]
Early menopause	11 (30.5) [16.3-48.1]	87 (34.1) [28.3-40.2]
HRT	4 (11.1) [3.1-26.0]	24 (9.4) [6.1-13.6]
Radiotherapy	19 (52.7) [35.4-69.5]	167 (65.4) [59.3-71.3]

LOGISTICS REGRESSIONS	OR [95%CI]	p
Hot flushes, sweating	0.45 [0.2-1.0]	0.05
Heart discomfort	0.84 [0.3-1.8]	0.68
Sleep problems	1.85 [0.9-3.7]	0.09
Depressive mood	1.28 [0.6-2.7]	0.51
Irritability	1.29 [0.6-2.6]	0.49
Anxiety	1.27 [0.6-2.5]	0.51
Physical and mental exhaustion	1.57 [0.7-3.1]	0.20
Sexual problems	0.92 [0.4-2.0]	0.84
Bladder problems	1.13 [0.4-2.7]	0.77
Vaginal dryness	1.10 [0.5-2.2]	0.77
Muscle and joint discomfort	0.97 [0.4-1.9]	0.93
Somatic Impairment	1.03 [0.5-2.1]	0.91
Psychological Impairment	1.72 [0.8-3.5]	0.12
Urogenital Impairment	1.29 [0.6-2.6]	0.46
Impairment of QoL	1.48 [0.7-2.9]	0.27
Severe Somatic Impairment	1.44 [0.3-6.4]	0.62
Severe Psychological Impairment	0.48 [0.2-1.1]	0.10
Severe Urogenital Impairment	0.74 [0.3-1.8]	0.52
Severe Impairment of QoL	0.55 [0.2-1.3]	0.20

MENOPAUSE RATING SCALE (items and domains)	CHEMOTHERAPY NO n=36 (12.3%)	CHEMOTHERAPY YES n=255 (87.6%)	p value
	n, (%) [95%CI]		
Hot flushes, sweating	27 (75.0) [57.8-87.8]	147 (57.6) [51.3-63.7]	0.04
Heart discomfort	9 (25.0) [12.1-42.2]	56 (21.9) [17.0-27.5]	0.67
Sleep problems	14 (38.8) [23.1-56.5]	138 (54.1) [47.7-60.3]	0.08
Depressive mood	11 (30.5) [16.3-48.1]	92 (36.0) [30.1-42.3]	0.51
Irritability	12 (33.3) [18.5-50.9]	100 (39.2) [33.1-45.5]	0.49
Anxiety	14 (38.8) [23.1-56.5]	114 (44.7) [38.5-51.0]	0.51
Physical and mental exhaustion	16 (44.4) [27.9-61.9]	142 (55.6) [49.3-61.8]	0.20
Sexual problems	9 (25.0) [12.1-42.2]	60 (23.5) [18.4-29.2]	0.84
Bladder problems	7 (19.4) [8.1-36.0]	55 (21.5) [16.6-27.1]	0.77
Vaginal dryness	17 (47.2) [30.4-64.5]	127 (49.8) [43.5-56.1]	0.77
Muscle and joint discomfort	21 (58.3) [40.7-74.4]	147 (57.6) [51.3-63.7]	0.93
Somatic Impairment	21 (58.3) [40.7-74.4]	151 (59.2) [52.9-65.3]	0.91
Psychological Impairment	15 (41.6) [25.5-59.2]	141 (55.2) [48.9-61.5]	0.12
Urogenital Impairment	18 (50.0) [32.9-67.0]	144 (56.4) [50.1-62.6]	0.46
Impairment of quality of life (QoL)	19 (52.7) [35.4-69.5]	159 (62.3) [56.0-68.3]	0.27
Severe Somatic Impairment	2 (5.5) [0.6-18.6]	20 (7.8) [4.8-11.8]	0.62
Severe Psychological Impairment	8 (22.2) [10.1-39.1]	31 (12.1) [8.4-16.8]	0.09
Severe Urogenital Impairment	7 (19.4) [8.1-36.0]	39 (15.2) [11.1-20.3]	0.52
Severe Impairment of QoL	7 (19.4) [8.1-36.0]	30 (11.7) [8.0-16.3]	0.19

CONCLUSION

In a group of middle-aged or older Colombian postmenopausal women who were BC survivors, a history of chemotherapy was not associated with the presence of menopausal symptoms or with somatic, psychological, urogenital, or quality of life impairment

