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DBCG

Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group

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Age-at-diagnosis and adherence to surgical guidelines in breast cancer patients

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Introduction

- Lymph node status at diagnosis is an important prognostic factor for survival among women with breast cancer
- In Denmark survival among women ≥ 70 years did not improve over the past decade as it did among women < 70 years.

Aim

To examine the association between age-at-diagnosis and surgical lymph node evaluation in a large cohort of women with breast cancer.

Methods

Study population: All women ≥ 18 years with a diagnosis of invasive breast cancer in Denmark

Study period: 2000–2013

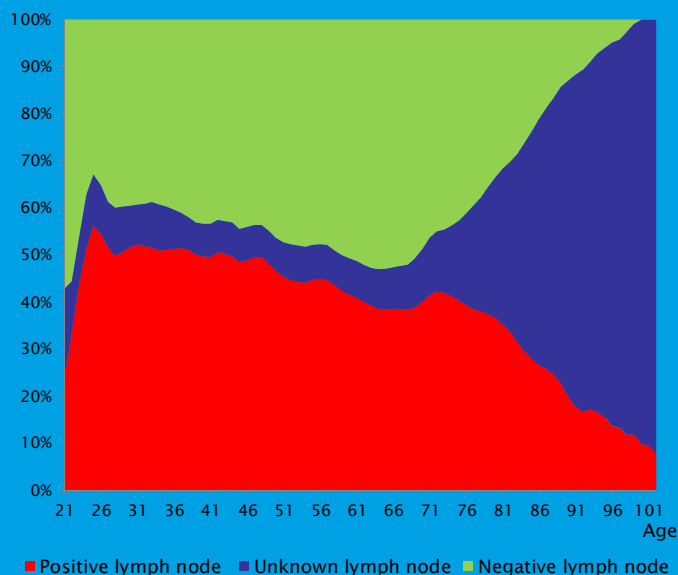
Study design: Cohort study

Analysis:

- Algorithm to assess lymph node status at time of diagnosis based on registry data
- Stacked bar chart and area chart to illustrate the relation between lymph node status and age-at-diagnosis

Results

- 62,393 women included
- 29% ≥ 70 years old
- 14% had unknown lymph node status – of these 61% were ≥ 70 years old



WHAT WE LEARNED

Breast cancer patients ≥ 70 years old less often receive a diagnosis based on pathology evaluated lymph node status

This may partly explain why survival in this age group has not improved as much as in younger women

Future studies might evaluate whether clinical examination, combined with adjuvant therapy, is sufficient or whether a geriatric intervention to increase the proportion of older women who receive pathologic node evaluation leads to better outcomes.

Data were linked by a unique civil registration number (CPR#) assigned to all Danes at birth or immigration

The Danish National Pathology Registry (SNOMED)

Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group (Clinical)

