Review

**Breast cancer in the elderly—Should it be treated differently?**

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Abstract

Breast cancer risk increases with age and about a third of female breast cancers are diagnosed in patients aged older than 70. Breast cancer in the elderly has, however, poorer outcome with lower survival rate compared to younger subjects. This may be partly explained by the delay in diagnosis and the ‘under-treatment’ of elderly breast cancer patients. In this review I try to provide recommendations for screening, surgery, radiotherapy, (neo)adjuvant hormone treatment and chemotherapy, and also the treatment of metastatic disease. Since large randomised trials usually exclude elderly patients with breast cancer, there is still an insufficient evidence for the treatment of such patients.

Keywords

Breast cancer; Cancer treatment; Elderly; Old age