# early symptoms of breast cancer typical and atypical manifestations

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# **Researh Article**

# Early symptoms of breast cancer: typical and atypical and atypical manifestations

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#### ABSTRACT

The article discusses the early typical and atypical signs of breast cancer. Research shows that a significant number of patients have atypical symptoms of the disease in question. At the same time, women who do not have seals in their breasts often do not seek help. Accordingly, today it is necessary to popularize the features of breast cancer diagnosis with atypical symptoms. The author concludes that take into account all the symptomatic manifestations of the disease in question will allow detecting breast cancer at an early stage and increasing the percentage of patients cured. This study provides detailed data on the sign of breast cancer symptoms, as well as on the frequency and diagnostic intervals associated with various symptoms, which can be used to popularize methods to fight breast cancer.

It can be concluded that increasing the awareness of patients and doctors about possible non-specific symptoms of breast cancer will significantly increase the ell 5 effectiveness of medical care in the fight against this disease. The article notes that only l out of 6 women who have been found with breast cancer without the presence of seals, they experience a wide range of signs before finding help. Accordingly, the presence of non-specific signs of breast cancer increases the length of time between their first manifestations and going to the doctor, which reduces the subsequent effectiveness of medical care.

It should also be noted that all participants in the experiment had free access to primary health care services, and primary health care doctors were able to quickly send patients to oncologists. However, the frequency of seeking medical attention in most women with non-specific symptoms was very low, and the interval between the first manifestation of symptoms and seeing a doctor was long.

The results of the study emphasize the need for medical interventions to improve the diagnostic proces in women with atypical manifestations and development of methods aimed at focusing on non-specific signs of breast cancer through medical public health education activities.

Keywords: breast, cancer, typical symptoms, atypical symptoms, diagnostics

### INTRODUCTION

Although more than 200,000 women are diagnosed with invasive cancer every year [1], Breast cancer mortality rate has decreased due to prgoress in screening and improved treatment [2]. Routine mammography improves screening early-stage cancer detection, potentially decreasing the need for more extensive treatment and improving chances of a better overall prognosis [3]. Early- stage breast cancer includes stage I breast cancer, which is divided into stages IA and IB. Stage IA of breast cancer is defined as a tumor <20 mm and negative lymph nodes. Stage IB is defined as a tumor

of <20 mm with micrometastases in the mobile ipsilateral axillary lymph nodes, or without signs of a primary breast tumor, but with micrometastases in the mobile ipsilateral axillary lymph nodes of level I and II). Studies are showing that the 5-year survival rate for stage IA IB breast cancer is 99.1% [4].

As the number of women with early breast cancer increases, so the number of breast cancer survivors does which underscores the importance of further care for these women. A prerequisite for intensive monitoring of breast cancer survivors is that detecting an early recurrence, before symptoms develop, will allow carlier treatment and may improve survival rate [5]. However, controlled examinations have shown

that routine testing for distant metastatic diseases does not provide benefits for survival or health- related quality of life, and an intensive surveillance approach is expensive. Moreover, although many doctors and patients prefer intensive initial testing and follow-up, the value of patients overestimate laboratory and imaging studies and may misinterpret the meaning of the normal test [5]. Unnecessary imaging can delay treatment, which is problematic because it has been shown that delayed treatment affects the stage and outcome of breast cancer [6].

Breast compaction is one of the most common symptoms among breast cancer's women and has a relatively high prognostic value for malignancies [11]. Consequently, this symptom has long been the focus of public health awareness campaigns to inform about the symptoms of cancer [13]. Although the rate of diagnosis of breast cancer in women is quite high, there are still situations in whish the diagnosis of this disease is delayed [2]. This leads to a decrease in the survival rate of patients with this disease, as well as a decrease in the effectiveness of treatment applied to patients [9

A number of authors have drawn attention to the fact that late breast cancer diagnosis associated with

the following: women who do not have calcification in the breast, associate the causes of deterioration with hormonal changes, breast feeding, injuries, etc. [16], [17]. Accordingly, today it is very important to describe the various manifestations of symptoms that are common among women who have breast cancer, as well as to study the relations between the various symptoms and the duration of diagnostic intervals.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study is based on data from the English audit of the national cancer diagnosis in primary care, with information about the cancer patients diagnosis in 14% of all English General practices [18]. The patient population was representative by age gender, and combination of breast cancer cases in England. The studied analytical sample included 2.316 women with breast cancer with complete information about age, ethnicity, and the presence

of symptoms.

As part of the audit, information provided by general practitioners was reviewed, which included data on the main symptoms presented by patients, based on their records information. In accordance with international standards, the primary care interval was defined as the number of days between the first presentation and the first visit to a specialist [17].

The description of the frequency of reported signs and the associated exact confidence intervals were investigated, and the presented taxonomy of symptoms was studied, which included 3 categories: (a) breast compaction, (b) no breast compaction, but there are other symptoms (chest pain, skin of breast shape abnormalities and nipple abnormalities), (C) non-(including axillary specific breast cancer signs symptoms, neck compaction, backache, fatigue and shortness of breath.

In the literature, it is noted that a number of women had several signs from different categories. From the seven results combinations, the most common symptoms were identified in three categories ("calcification," calcification and its absence", "lack of calcification "and "non-specific symptoms not directly related to the breast").

### RESULTS

2,316 women with breast cancer signs were examined. The number of detected symptoms was

2,543, with an average of 1/1 signs per patient. A total of 56 signs were registered, as shown in table 1.

Calcification in the breast was the most common symptom, which was observed in about four-fifths of all women(83%). The other common signs were nipple abnormalities(7%), chest pain(6%), and breast skin abnormalities(2%)

Frequency of the most common signs( with a relative frequency of 0,2% or above) among 2,316 women with breast cancer included In the analysis

	Symptom and		Preliminary		Post-presentation		
	Number o f women diagnosed with the symptom	% Relative frequency (95% CI)	Median of the patient's interval	% Patient Interval> 90 days	Median of primary care interval	% Primary care interval >	% 2+ preliminary consultation <sup>b</sup> (n = 2002)
Breast cancer	1022	83,0%(IQR)	90th	(IQR) 9 8% (7-	0th	1%(1-	60/
Anomalies of	150	6,8%	17 (2-71)	23%	0 (0 1) 7	1%(0,4-	1.20/
Chest pain	140	6,4%	10 (3-41)	12%(8-	0.(0, 2)	3%(1-	200/
Anomalies of	46	2,0%	13 (1-30)	10%(4-	0 (0 1) 2	2%(0,4-	00/
Axillary Iump	27	1,2%	2,5 (0-	0% (0-	0.0010	4% (1-	2.5%
Ulceration of	25	1,1%	122 (0-	56%	0 (0 1) 1	0% (0-	70/
Backache		1,0%	9,5 (1-	10%(3-	21 (0-	26%	CE0/
Dysplasia of		0,7%	5 (4-18)	1 5% (4-	0 (0, 1) 2	0% (0-	70/
Breast infection	15	0,6%	2,5 (0-	21%(8-	0 (0, 22)	7%(1-	C 00/
Swelling of the	14	0,6%	3.5.(0-	10%(2-	0 (0, 2, 5)	0% (0-	150/
Musculoskel etal	14	0,6%	0.5.(0	10%(2-	54 (0-	25% (9-	750/
Dyspnea	11	0,5%	F (0	0% (0-	1.(0	0% (0-	<b>F 7</b> 0/
Rash on chest	10	0,4%	a	0% (0-	0.(0.7)	0% (0-	2.0%
Abnormaliti es	0	0,4%	0 (0, 10)	0% (0-	4.5.(0	0% (0-	200/
Abdominal		0,3%	39(18-	17%(3-	a	0% (0-	710/

anomalies of the breast		(0,2– 0,7%)		43%)		(10– 70%)	
Chest pain	8	0,3% (0,2– 0,7%)	18 (10-43)	0% (0- 32%)	24 (9.5-83)	25% (7– 59%)	75%
Fatigue or weakness	7	0,3% (0,1– 0,6%)	10.5 (1.5- 33)	0% (0– 49%)	2 (0-27)	14% (3– 51%)	29%
Weight loss	6	0,3% (0,1– 0,6%)	56 (51–61) a	0% (0– 66%)	18 (11-22)	0% (0– 43%)	60%
Cough	6	0,3% (0,1– 0,6%)	5,5 (0-11)	0% (0– 66%)	13.5 (6.5- 38)	0% (0– 49%)	60%
Axillary pain	5	0,2% (0,1– 0,5%)	15 (0–126) a	33% (6– 79%)	5 (1-8)	0% (0– 43%)	40%
Bruised chest	5	0,2% (0,1– 0,5%)	7 (7–14) a	0% (0– 43%)	0 (0-8)	0% (0– 43%)	40%
Edema of the upper limb	5	0,2% (0,1– 0,5%)	76 (19– a 133)	50% (10– 91%)	0,5 (0-1) a	0% (0– 49%)	0%
Total number	2316	-	7 (1–28) 80	9% (8– 10%)	0 (0-1) 7	2% (1- 2%)	10%

The results of the study showed that, in general,

164 women(9%) had waited for more than 3 months before asking for doctors help. Among the more important non-calcification-related breast signs, more than 1 in 5 women reported breast ulceration (50%), nipple pathology(23%), and inflammation of infection of the breast(21%). These women also didn't ask for medical help for more than 90 days.

Only 2% of women who also had medical attendance 3 months after the onset of the disease the had non-specific breast abnormalities, chest & back pain, musculoskeletal pain, fatigue or weakness.

The majority of women (99%) had the above symptoms, presented in 4 groups: "only calcification"(76%);

"no calcification" (11%); "presence of calcification and their symptoms(6%); and "non-breast-related symptoms"(5%)

## DISCUSSION

It was determined that only 1 out of 6 women who were with breast cancer without the presence of calcification experience, had a wide range of signs before asking for help. Accordingly, the presence of non-specific symptoms of breast cancer increases the length of time between their first manifestations and going to the doctor, which reduces the subsequent effectiveness of medical care.

It should also be noted that all participants in the experiment had free access to primary health care services, where doctors were able to quickly send patients to oncologists. However, the frequency pf asking for medical care among most women with non-specific symptoms was very low, and the internal between the first manifestation of symptoms and seeing a doctor was long. Accordingly, the above groups of symptoms pf breast cancer should be more carefully studied by specialists in the field of Oncology in order to diagnose the disease in question in a timely manner and provide medical care. This will help to increase the survival rate of women with breast cancer in the future.

#### CONCLUSION

Surveys of breast cancer patients show that most of them prefer monitoring to detect diseases, including metastases [13]. Surveys of physicians indicate that most of them also favor intensive surveillance programs for asymptomatic patients [12]. Positive impacts on patient management or treatment outcome can often be expected when imaging tests are administered to asymptomatic patients. Numerous studies have shown wide variability in visual observation in asymptomatic women with prior breast cancer. It is important to emphasize the goal of early breast cancer surveillance to detect early local or contralateral recurrence, since early detection of breast cancer recurrence is correlated with increased survival. The goal is not to detect asymptomatic metastatic cancer, as there is no evidence that early detection of metastases in asymptomatic patients improves clinical outcome [6].

This study provides detailed data on the signs of breast cancer symptoms, as well as on the frequency and diagnostic intervals associated with various symptoms, which can be used to popularize methods to combat breast cancer. It can be concluded that increasing the awareness of patients and doctors about possible non-specific symptoms of breast cancer will significantly increase the effectiveness of medical care in the fight against this disease .

The results of the study highlight the importance for medical interventions to improve the diagnostic in women with atypical manifestations and the development of methods aimed at focusing attention on non-specific symptoms of breast cancer through medical public health education activities

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