

FINANCIAL COST OF BREAST CANCER IN IRAQ

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ABSTRACT

In Iraq, the age adjusted ratio of breast cancer is 31.5 per 100,000.^[1] Publishing show that patients with breast cancer is usually presented in late stage. The estimates of the costs for inhabitants are informative for projecting the total healthcare expenditure and for comparing different healthcare systems, are not very useful for evaluation the variability in resources utilization. Health policies must incorporate a comprehensive estimation of the costs of cancer care to provide appropriate and economically affordable cancer care.^[2]

Economic evaluations of the prevention or early detection and screening and the effective treatment of early disease, require a good understanding of the cost associated with breast cancer. this study was carried out to comment on the economic cost of breast cancer.

Publishing on the economic burden of breast cancer in Iraq is scarce.^[3] Therefore, this study was carried out to estimate the cost of breast cancer in Iraq.

Data were collected from the annual statistical reports of republic of Iraq ministry of health and environment and

the annual reports of Iraqi cancer registry through the period 2012 – 2020.

To obtain an estimation of governmental budget for breast cancer in Iraq, the rate number of breast cancer out number of total diseases in Iraq excluding Kurdistan region was multiplied by the total budget of Iraqi health ministry.

Expenditure of breast cancer in Iraq = Percentage of breast cancer X total budget of monastery of health.

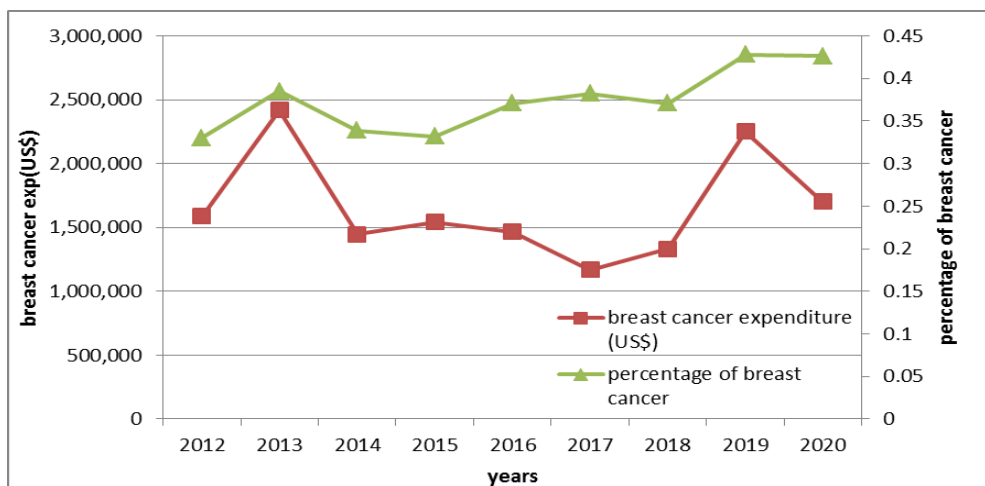


Figure (1): Shows the distribution of breast cancer cases consulted health establishment, and distribution of health expenditure on breast cancer. Two peaks health expenditure were shown in 2013 and 2019.

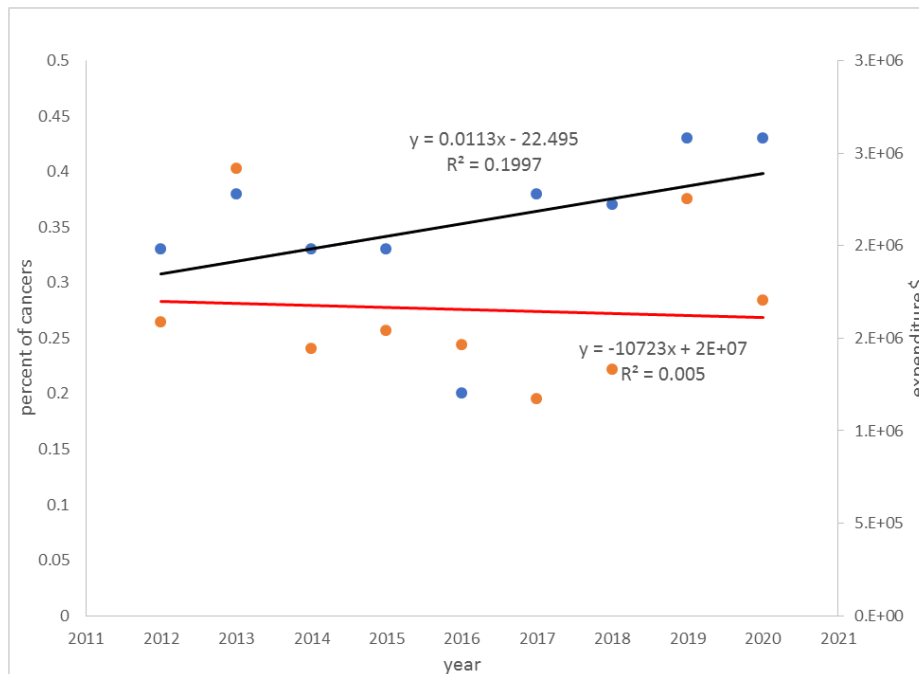


Figure (2): Shows regression lines for the percent of breast cancer from total and the cost of breast cancer.

This study showed two peaks in health expenditure. This finding is parallel to the increase in breast cancer cases. This increment might be explained by the progress of early detection of breast cancer activities. Fellowship of cancer as subspecialty was established 2017.

The graduation of fellowship in cancer screen in 2019 affects the rate of detection and cost.

The paradox of cost and rate of cases that appeared in 2020 might be explained by fluctuated prices were took place in the end of 2019.^[4] Medical tourism activity might be another factor for this paradox.

The increase in rate of cases of breast cancer with years might be explained by the increased of activities of early detection.

Several article documented a high cost for treating breast cancer.^[5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13] In Iraq it is almost one of third of the ministry of health budget is for treating breast cancer. This figure regarded as a high one, i.e. management of breast cancer consumed a high amount of ministry of health budget.

In conclusion, to increase the preventive activities to reduce the financial cost.

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