

Trends in Palliative Care Utilization in Patients with Advanced Breast Cancer #787086

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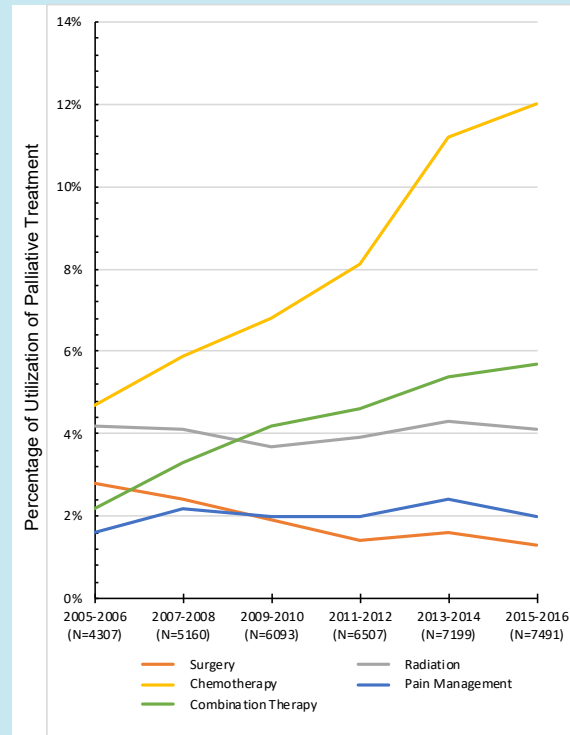
Introduction

- Limited curative options for patients diagnosed with advanced breast cancer
- Palliative treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, pain management or combination therapy
- We hypothesized that the utilization of palliative treatments would increase over time in patients with advanced breast cancer

Methods

- The National Cancer Database (NCDB) was used to identify patients with stage IV breast cancer from 2005-2016
- Chi square tests examined subgroup differences between patients based on receipt of palliative treatments
- Logistic regression examined treatment patterns and demographic factors influencing the utilization of palliative treatments

Table 1. Trends in the Utilization of Palliative Treatments Over Time in Advanced Breast Cancer



Results

- 57,444 patients in our cohort
- Increased trend in the receipt of palliative treatments over 12-year period (18.3% in 2005-2006 to 25.2% 2015-2016)
- In 2015-2016 vs. 2005-2006 patients were 1.5 times as likely to receive palliative treatment (OR 1.510, $p < .001$).
- Palliative chemotherapy utilization increased the most (4.4% in 2005-2006 to 10.3% in 2015-2016)
- Combination therapy also increased (2% in 2005-2006 to 5% in 2015-2016)
- Elderly patients, females, White Hispanics, those living in the Midwest, South Atlantic and West coast and uninsured patients were less likely to receive palliative treatments

Conclusions

- Utilization of palliative treatments increased over this 12 year time period
- 74.8% of patients diagnosed in 2015-2016 did not receive any palliative treatments
- Room for improvement in provider and patient education about palliative treatment options
- Further studies needed to elucidate why certain population are less likely to receive palliative treatments