



BREAST CANCER EARLY DETECTION

Introduction

WORKSHOP 5

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

Breast cancer burden

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, comprising **16%** of all female cancers.
- It is estimated that **519,000** women died in 2004 due to breast cancer
- **69%** of all breast cancer deaths occur in developing countries where over 70% of cases are diagnosed in late stages

Source: WHO GBD, 2004

Breast cancer incidence

- Breast cancer incidence is increasing in the developing world due to longer life expectancy, urbanization and adoption of unhealthy lifestyles
- Modifiable risk factors, excluding reproductive factors contributing to breast cancer deaths worldwide (Danaei et al. 2005):
 - 21% of deaths are attributable to alcohol use, overweight and obesity, and physical inactivity.
 - 27% in high-income countries where the most important contributors are overweight and obesity.
 - 18% in LMCs where physical inactivity is the most important determinant (10%)

Early detection methods

- ***early diagnosis***: awareness of early signs and symptoms in symptomatic populations in order to facilitate diagnosis and early treatment,
- ***Screening***: systematic application of a screening test in a presumably asymptomatic population. It aims to identify individuals with an abnormality suggestive of cancer
- A screening programme is a far more complex undertaking than an early diagnosis programme

Breast cancer early detection in developing countries

WHO recommendations:

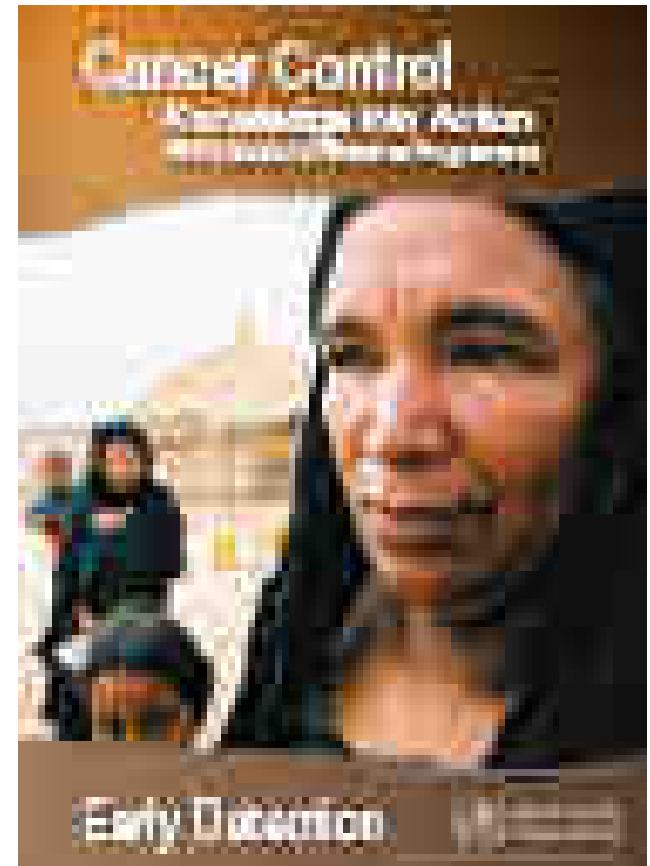
- Early diagnosis or awareness of early signs and symptoms
- Screening by clinical breast examination in demonstration areas.
- Mammography screening is very costly and is recommend for countries with good health infrastructure that can afford a long term programme.
- BSE is recommend for raising awareness among women at risk
- Many low-, middle income countries that face the double burden of cervical and breast cancer need to implement combined cost-effective and affordable interventions to tackle both diseases

Irrespective of the early detection method used, central to the success of population based early detection are careful planning and a well organized programme that:

- targets the right population group and
- ensures continuity and quality of actions across the whole continuum of care.

Targeting the wrong age group, such as, younger women with low risk causes:

- a lower number of breast cancers found per woman screened
- lead to more evaluation and overtreatment and onerloading of the system



www.who.int/cancer

Abstracts:

- A proposal for breast cancer prevention in the shantytowns of Nairobi (Kenya). Dr. Claudia Allemani
- Assessment of the utility of ultrasound guided biopsy of the breast for diagnosis of breast cancer in countries with limited resources. Dr. A.N. Wilkes

Table discussion (11:15-12:15)

- What is the importance of early detection (early diagnosis/screening) in breast cancer control?
- What is the best strategy for population-based breast cancer early detection (early diagnosis/screening) in middle and low income countries? At what age should these programmes be initiated?
- What is the evidence that using clinical breast evaluation (CBE) as a screening tool effectively improve breast cancer outcomes?
- Is there a role in early detection (early diagnosis/screening) for breast ultrasound in middle and low resource settings
- What strategies are effective in low and middle income countries to
 - develop policies and implement population-based breast cancer early detection programmes
 - to improve access to early detection (early diagnosis/screening) services
 - to improve participation of women in early detection (early diagnosis/screening) programs
 - to improve quality of early detection (early diagnosis/screening)