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TITLE: Does Subsequent Pregnancy Influence Breast Cancer Survival?

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08/31/02
Does Subsequent Pregnancy Influence Breast Cancer Survival?

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U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

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Among young breast cancer patients, desires for future childbearing may impact treatment decisions and quality of life. Although changes in adjuvant therapy have enabled maintenance of fertility, many oncologists encourage their patients to delay childbearing fearing recurrent disease may be stimulated by hormonal elevations of pregnancy. The current retrospective study based on medical record review was conducted collaboratively with researchers of the Kaiser Permanente Research Foundation in Northern California. Computerized files enabled the identification of 105 breast cancer cases with a history of subsequent pregnancy and 335 cases matched by age, year, and stage at breast cancer diagnosis. A total of 136 women [31%] experienced a recurrence and 99 died of breast cancer. Cox proportional hazards analyses indicated survival did not differ by subsequent pregnancy status. Among the 105 with a history of subsequent pregnancy, 54 women carried to term; the pregnancy was interrupted by miscarriage [11 cases], induced abortion [39 cases], or an ectopic pregnancy [1 case]. Although the study population is small and the duration of follow-up after pregnancy outcome limited, subsequent pregnancy outcome did not influence breast cancer survival. These findings are reassuring and are in agreement with other published reports.
FINAL REPORT FOR GRANT NUMBER DAMD17-96-1-6122

Does Subsequent Pregnancy Influence Breast Cancer Survival?
Jeanne Petrek, MD
Catherine Schaefer, PhD
Ann Zauber, PhD
Julie Kranick, MPH
Ruby T. Senie, PhD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRONT COVER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF 298 REPORT DOCUMENTATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BODY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPORTABLE OUTCOMES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCLUSIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDICES</td>
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DOES SUBSEQUENT PREGNANCY INFLUENCE BREAST CANCER SURVIVAL?

INTRODUCTION:

Among pre-menopausal breast cancer patients, especially those women who have delayed childbearing to complete graduate education or to further their careers, recommendations concerning the safety of pregnancy may significantly affect their quality of life [1]. Although a survey conducted in 1994 reported that patients were concerned about the potential risk of recurrence, some women indicated that having children was an important post-treatment goal which would greatly enhance their quality of life. In addition, some newly diagnosed young breast cancer patients consider the impact on subsequent fertility when making treatment decisions. As the rate of earlier stage at diagnosis has increased resulting in improved survival and more young breast cancer patients retain cyclical menstrual cycles following less toxic and more limited treatment with chemotherapy, the potential for childbearing is more frequently questioned by patients [2]. Therefore, more breast cancer patients are retaining or regaining their fertility which has increased their interest in knowing the impact of normal reproductive patterns on their probability of long term survival. Several investigators have suggested that knowing childbearing is safe after breast cancer may greatly enhance the emotional response to breast cancer of young patients.

More than 100 years ago breast cancer was shown to be hormone dependent [3]; therefore, clinicians in the past routinely cautioned against pregnancy after breast cancer fearing the hormonal elevations of pregnancy would stimulate latent foci of carcinoma creating an unnecessary risk of disease recurrence [2]. From the limited studies of the effect of subsequent pregnancy on survival published during more than four decades the suggested latency between breast cancer diagnosis and pregnancy varied considerably from a brief interval to a minimum of ten years [4,5]. However, these recommendations were published over an extended interval during which the greater emphasis on screening has resulted in earlier stage at diagnosis and fewer patients requiring extensive chemotherapy. Therefore, the guidance from publications studies of the past regarding delay before subsequent pregnancy is of limited value. Although some physicians remain concerned about the potential adverse effect of pregnancy on prognosis, they also recognize the psychosocial needs of their younger breast cancer patients [2] and increasing the importance of this retrospective study.

BODY:

Overview of Scope of Work

This study, to assess the safety of subsequent pregnancy on breast cancer prognosis, was conducted collaboratively with the research team of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program [KPMCP] located in Northern California. The extensive computerized files maintained by the health maintenance organization enabled this retrospective study, based on abstracting of KPMCP charts, of to be conducted. Multiple computer files were linked including the following:

1. Computerized records of breast cancer cases diagnosed at age 44 or younger were linked with hospitalization files for pregnancy related conditions to identify women who have had one or more admissions for maternity care after breast cancer diagnosis. Dates of breast cancer
diagnosis and pregnancy outcome were compared in order to eliminate women who were pregnant at the time of diagnosis of breast cancer [Figure 1, Appendix].

2. Cases identified with a history of post-treatment pregnancy were linked with SEER files to obtain stage at diagnosis. SEER records indicated local, regional or distant breast cancer stage.

3. The medical records, retained in outpatient and inpatient KPMCP facilities, were abstracted for each breast cancer case with a history of subsequent pregnancy to determine months from diagnosis to date of last menstrual period [LMP] and breast cancer stage at the onset of first pregnancy. Stage and duration of survival were factors required for identification of appropriate comparison cases. Additional data on breast cancer risk and prognostic factors were also recorded on data forms [Sample form in Appendix].

4. To identify 4 comparison cases without a history of subsequent pregnancy, the computerized file of breast cancer cases lacking a maternity related hospital admission were searched by age, year and stage at disease as well as survival time. Year of diagnosis was included to control for changes in treatment modalities during the past three decades. Breast cancer status at LMP prior to pregnancy and length of survival from diagnosis to subsequent pregnancy were used as matching criterion to help control for a potential survival advantages among women electing to become pregnant, called the ‘healthy mother effect’ [6], which implies that breast cancer cases free of symptoms would be more likely to consider childbearing. Approximately 10 potential comparison cases were identified by computer for each woman with a positive post diagnosis pregnancy in order to select 4 with matching criteria. Although the number of cases without a positive post-treatment pregnancy history was substantial, the matching criteria restricted the pool of potential comparison cases even though acceptable differences in age at diagnosis and year of diagnosis were increased from 3 to 8 years.

5. Data from medical records were abstracted for the comparison cases using the same instrument as for those with a subsequent pregnancy. California death records, routinely linked with KPMCP files, provided date and cause of death through December 31, 1998 for all breast cancer cases.

6. Statistical analyses were performed to compare baseline characteristics of women with and without a history of subsequent pregnancy and matched analyses were conducted to assess survival differences by pregnancy history.

**Preparation for Statistical Analysis**

The data management staff of KPMCP conducted abstracting of all data and computerization of medical record abstract forms. After KPMCP membership information and California death dates were added to the data file, personal identifiers were removed. The data file was then provided to the research team in New York for analysis.

The data was initially reviewed to assess the success of matching. Basic data checks were also conducted to detect any illogical data entries; none were noted. Matching criteria were carefully
analyzed and follow-up information was determined in order to restrict the data file to the breast cancer cases meeting the study protocol and objectives. Initial analyses included descriptive statistics of the study population and characteristics of the subsequent pregnancies.

**Estimating Months of Survival**

The Kaiser data file identified several dates from which survival time could be calculated. These included: date of diagnosis, date of last menstrual period before first subsequent pregnancy, date of subsequent pregnancy outcome, date of recurrence [if any] recorded in the medical chart, date of death [derived from the California death registry or reported in the medical record], date of last clinical notation in the medical chart, and last year of membership. Survival analyses were conducted using each appropriate outcome; however, findings did not differ. Although last year of membership provided the longest follow-up time for cases included in this study, last chart date provided a more conservative and accurate portrayal of the disease status at the time of last clinical encounter. Therefore, the analyses presented in this report used last chart date as the end point for cases without a date of recurrence or date of death.

The follow-up time for analysis was defined as the number of months from breast cancer diagnosis to last chart date or death date. This timeframe was based on the assumption that within each set the follow-up time from diagnosis to date of subsequent pregnancy was comparable in compliance with the matching criteria requiring comparable months of survival from diagnosis to LMP prior to subsequent pregnancy.

Survival time was also calculated for matched sets using months from LMP to last chart date or death date. This follow-up interval enabled analysis of the impact of subsequent pregnancy on survival among comparable breast cancer cases. The data file included deaths from the California Automated Mortality Linkage and Information System through December 31, 1998. A second survival analysis was performed in which cases without a date of death were censored at 12/31/98 regardless of additional follow-up time abstracted from the KPMCP medical charts.

Because it was found that some individuals included in the study population may not have been fertile during the required period, each analysis was also conducted for both the full population including 440 cases and after eliminating the 5 comparison cases who were unable to become pregnant after breast cancer due to prior hysterectomy or oophorectomy. No differences were noted when the results of these analyses were compared; therefore, the statistical results in this report reflect the findings from the 440 cases. The semi-parametric Cox Proportional Hazards Model was used to assess the relationship between survival outcomes and subsequent pregnancy adjusting for potential confounding factors including prior pregnancy, family history of breast and ovarian cancer, ER & PR status of primary breast tumor, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and hormonal therapy.

**105 Match Sets Available for Analysis**

Data from each match set was assessed to insure comparability of the case with a subsequent pregnancy to the comparison cases. One set was excluded due to differing stage of disease at diagnosis; the comparison cases had invasive disease while the case with subsequent pregnancy was noted to have in situ breast cancer. Two additional sets were dropped from the data file due
to lack of any follow-up information after subsequent pregnancy. The survival months from diagnosis to last menstrual period was inadequate for 4 comparison cases prior to subsequent pregnancy of their matches cases; these cases were excluded.

The number of comparison cases available for each matched set varied. The data file provided for 29 sets in which 4 comparison cases were successfully matched for each breast cancer patient with a subsequent pregnancy. More limited sets included 2 with only one comparison case, 5 sets with two, and 69 sets with three matched comparison cases. The total study population included 440 breast cancer cases of whom 105 had a history of one or more pregnancies after breast cancer treatment. [Figure 1]

As required by study design, cancer stage was matched within each set: 10% were treated for in situ disease, 61% with disease localized to the breast, and 29% with regional spread to one or more axillary lymph nodes. All study subjects were less than age 45 at diagnosis. Matching within sets by age at diagnosis was within 8 years for 97% while 85% had a difference of 5 years or less. Year of diagnosis was within 5 years for 97% of the matched sets.

Descriptive Statistics

Age at diagnosis ranged from 23 to 45 years with a mean of 34 years; the mean age of women with a subsequent pregnancy was 32 years compared with a mean of 34 for comparison cases. This difference was not statistically significant. A majority [65%] of the 440 breast cancer cases was white; 14% were black, 7% Hispanic, 7% Asian, and 7% were of other ethnic groups. Race was not a matching criteria.

A similar proportion of cases with and without subsequent pregnancy were nulliparous before diagnosis, 21% and 19% respectively. A majority of cases in the study [81%] had at least one pregnancy prior to breast cancer diagnosis, with an average of 2.6 prior pregnancies among parous women. Therefore, pregnancy history prior to breast cancer diagnosis was not a predictor of subsequent pregnancy.

Table 1. Parity prior to breast cancer diagnosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Prior Pregnancies</th>
<th>With Subsequent Pregnancy N=105</th>
<th>Without Subsequent Pregnancy N=335</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nulliparous</td>
<td>22 [21%]</td>
<td>62 [19%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>28 [27%]</td>
<td>49 [15%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>24 [23%]</td>
<td>95 [28%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>10 [9%]</td>
<td>68 [20%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four or more</td>
<td>21 [20%]</td>
<td>60 [18%]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A positive family history of breast cancer in a first and/or second degree relative was recorded in the medical record for 35% of the study population. The proportion was slightly higher [37%] for comparison cases than for women who had a subsequent pregnancy [30%]. Documentation of ovarian family history was similar in the two groups with less than 4% having either a first or second degree relative affected.
Among the 105 individuals who had one or more subsequent pregnancies, the outcome of the first pregnancy included 54 [51%] live births, 51 [49%] interrupted pregnancies including 39 with an induced abortion, 11 who miscarried, and one woman who had an ectopic pregnancy. The interval between breast cancer diagnosis to last menstrual period before first subsequent pregnancy ranged from 1 – 143 months. Women who carried to term had a mean interval of delay before pregnancy of 25 months. This interval was similar for the 11 women who experienced a miscarriage [mean of 28 months]; however, a slightly shorter mean interval of 20 months was recorded for women who terminated the pregnancy by induced abortion. Among the 21 women who became pregnant within six months of breast cancer diagnosis, 11 terminated the pregnancy by abortions [52%], 8 carried to term [38%], one woman had a miscarriage, and one had an ectopic pregnancy. Medical record notations did not provide any information on the reasons for induced abortion among these breast cancer cases.

Method of first detection of breast cancer was recorded for 433 cases indicating that breast self examination enabled tumor palpation by 368 [85%] cases. The proportion did not differ by subsequent pregnancy history. The other 15% of cases were detected by clinical exam [6%] or mammography [9%]. Detection information obtained from Kaiser medical records reflects the less frequent use of mammography among young women as well as the changing patterns of mammography screening over time. Greater than 45% of the 440 cases were diagnosed before 1985.

Breast Cancer Treatment

More study subjects were treated by mastectomy [65%] than breast conserving surgery [35%]. No differences were noted by subsequent pregnancy status. Axillary node dissection was recorded for 254 cases; 58% were 2cm or greater with a mean size of 2.5 cm. Tumor size was similar regardless of subsequent pregnancy status. As required by matching criteria, axillary lymph node status was comparable in each matched set. A history of positive nodes was exactly matched although the total number of lymph node metastases within a matched set differed slightly but not significantly.

Of the 151 participants [35%] who received radiation therapy, subsequent pregnancy cases did not differ from comparison cases. Medical abstracting records indicated that 203 [46%] women were treated with chemotherapy including 39% of those with a subsequent pregnancy and 49% without. The mean number of months of chemotherapy was 7.5 with a range from 1 to 42 months; the duration of treatment did not differ significantly by subsequent pregnancy. Of the 37 participants [9%] who received hormonal therapy after diagnosis, three had a post-treatment pregnancy and 34 were comparison cases.

Although estrogen and progesterone receptors are now considered prognostic factors, this information was not available for many of the earlier cases included in the data file. Receptor status was recorded for 131 women of whom 44% were receptor positive including 29 who subsequently became pregnant and 102 who did not.

A total of 136 women [31%] experienced a recurrence. Of these 42 [31%] were local to the remaining breast tissue or chest wall, 22 [16%] were regional to lymph nodes or surrounding
tissue, and 72 [53%] were recurrences in distant organs. Among the 105 women with a history of subsequent pregnancy, 34 [32%] experienced a recurrence and 102 [31%] women without a subsequent pregnancy experienced a recurrence. Follow-up records indicated that 25% of the study population died. Of these, 104 were cancer related deaths and 99 of these were due to breast cancer. Among the women with a subsequent pregnancy, breast cancer was the cause of death for the 27 [26%] who died; among those without a history of pregnancy after diagnosis, 83 women died [25%] and of these 72 [94%] died of breast cancer.

Among the 34 cases with a history of one or more subsequent pregnancies who experienced recurrent disease, in 5 cases the recurrence preceded subsequent pregnancy. Of the 9 women who developed recurrent disease within 12 months of pregnancy, four had term births, three elected to terminate the pregnancy by induced abortion, one had a miscarriage, and one pregnancy was ectopic. These 9 women died during the follow-up period. Among women whose recurrence predated their subsequent pregnancy, three terminated their pregnancy by abortion, one carried to term, and one experienced a miscarriage. Three of these women with recurrent disease prior to pregnancy [one abortion, one full term birth, and one miscarriage] died during the follow-up period.

Follow-Up Time

The mean length of follow-up from date of breast cancer diagnosis to either date of death or last chart date was 120.8 months for the 440 cases, 120 months for women with a subsequent pregnancy and 121 for women without. The average time from date of first diagnosis to recurrence or last chart date was 107.8 months for all included cases with a mean of 103 months for cases with a subsequent pregnancy and 109 months for the comparison cases. Time from LMP of the case with subsequent pregnancy was used to compare recurrence or death events with comparison cases. The table below indicates mean number of months for the follow-up intervals used in the survival analyses.

Table 2: Mean follow-up intervals applied in the survival analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow-Up Interval</th>
<th>All Cases</th>
<th>With Subsequent Pregnancy</th>
<th>Without Subsequent Pregnancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis to California Death Date</td>
<td>145.2</td>
<td>149.1 months</td>
<td>144.0 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMP to California Death Date</td>
<td>122.2</td>
<td>125.8 months</td>
<td>121.1 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis to Recurrence/Last Chart Date</td>
<td>107.8</td>
<td>103.0 months</td>
<td>109.3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMP to Recurrence/Last Chart Date</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>84.2 months</td>
<td>90.0 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hazards Models

The matched Cox proportional hazards model was used to assess survival differences by subsequent pregnancy history. In each matched model, the independent variables were subsequent pregnancy, family history of breast cancer, family history of ovarian cancer, prior pregnancy history, chemotherapy treatment, radiation treatment, and hormonal therapy. The results of these analyses indicated no predictor was significantly associated with recurrence or breast cancer death.
When recurrence was the outcome of interest, the disease free survival women with a subsequent pregnancy did not differ from matched women after assessing the time from diagnosis to recurrence/last chart date or from LMP to recurrence/last chart date [Table 3].

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Follow-Up Time</th>
<th>Hazard Ratio</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recurrence</td>
<td>Dx to Recurrence or Last Chart Date</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LMP to Recurrence or Last Chart Date</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When breast cancer death was the outcome assessed, survival did not differ by subsequent pregnancy status as noted in Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Follow-Up Time</th>
<th>Hazard Ratio</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breast Cancer Death</td>
<td>Dx to Death or Last Chart Date</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LMP to Death or Last Chart Date</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparisons with Published Studies

The results of this retrospective study, based on data abstracted from the medical records of a well established health maintenance organization, are in agreement with several recent publications of both prospective and retrospective study designs. A population-based study conducted in Finland by Sankila et al included a cohort of 2,548 women in the tumor registry; a subsequent pregnancy was recorded for 4% of the cases. A nested matched study was conducted including 91 cases with a subsequent term delivery and 471 matched cases without subsequent pregnancy [6]. Women without subsequent pregnancy had a significantly greatly risk of dying from breast cancer; the authors termed this survival advantage the ‘healthy mother effect’ although 6 of the 91 patients who gave birth died of breast cancer.

In a prospective follow-up of cases from a case/control study, Velentgas and colleagues reported on 53 [9%] women in their cohort of the 618 patients aged <40 at diagnosis who had a subsequent pregnancy [7]. Although the study is small and follow-up was relatively short, pregnancy after diagnosis did not appear to adversely affect survival. However, these authors noted a 24% experienced miscarriage suggesting that recency of treatment may have precipitated pregnancy loss. Another population-based study by Kroman et al from Denmark observed 173 [3%] of 5,725 breast cancer cases had one or more post diagnosis pregnancies [8]; 10% experienced a miscarriage and 92 elected to terminate the pregnancy by induced abortion. They noted that full-term pregnancy was associated with a non-significant decreased risk of death from breast cancer; however, neither miscarriage nor induced abortion appeared to influence prognosis. Kroman and colleagues suggested that patients may have elected pregnancy termination fearing potential recurrence of their breast cancer. In this retrospective study of
Kaiser breast cancer patients, 11% experienced miscarriage, a proportion similar to the proportion reported by Kroman et al.

Due to effective therapeutic chemotherapy and radiotherapy for breast cancer patients with recurrent disease, survival has been significantly prolonged after initial breast cancer recurrence. Therefore, survival analyses require adequate follow-up time for appropriate analysis of factors associated with death from breast cancer especially when time to recurrence is included in the available data file.

Since the team of investigators who proposed this retrospective study recognized the limitations of relying on Kaiser medical record abstracting, the comprehensive prospective study of young breast cancer patients being conducted by Dr. Jeanne Petrek and colleagues is of vital importance. Until data from the prospective cohort are available for meaningful analyses, the reassuring findings of this retrospective study and other reports provide guidance to clinicians and their patients.

**Study Limitations**

This retrospective study has several major limitations resulting from follow-up of patients whose membership in Kaiser may not have been consistent or who may have received clinical care at other facilities which may have resulted in limited information on breast cancer status in the medical charts and potential misclassification of cases on recurrence. The following chart reflects the number of months of follow-up for all individuals in the study from date of breast cancer diagnosis to last chart date. After excluding cases who had died, 11% with a subsequent pregnancy and 18% of women without a subsequent pregnancy had less than 48 months follow-up [Table 5].

**Table 5: Months of Follow-up after Diagnosis from Medical Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow-Up Time: Months from Diagnosis to Last Chart Date [or Death]</th>
<th>Subsequent Pregnancy N=105</th>
<th>No Subsequent Pregnancy N=335</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 48</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 - 72</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73 - 96</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97 - 120</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;120</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11% &lt;48 months</strong></td>
<td><strong>18% &lt;48 months</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When follow-up time is measured as the number of months from LMP date prior to subsequent pregnancy to last clinical assessment recorded in the medical records, less than 48 months follow-up is available for post pregnancy 21% and 26% of the comparison cases [Table 6]. Since successful breast cancer treatment is often referred to survival at a minimum of five years while others consider a ten year follow-up interval essential for survival analyses, the current study would benefit from additional follow-up information.
Table 6: Follow-up from Last Menstrual Period to Last Chart Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow-Up Months from LMP to Last Chart Date [or Death]</th>
<th>Subsequent Pregnancy</th>
<th>No Subsequent Pregnancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 24</td>
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<td>36</td>
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<td>25 – 48</td>
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<td>49 – 72</td>
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<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>73 – 96</td>
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<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97 – 120</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;120</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21% <48 months 26% <48 months

Several other study limitations must be noted. Death data pertains only to cases residing in California after diagnosis. Any deaths that occurred out of state are not documented in the data set. Although this detracts from the completeness of the data file, there is no reason to suspect that deaths occurring outside California vary according to subsequent pregnancy status and, therefore, should not significantly influence study results. In addition, pregnancies that may have been experienced by the study subjects but not recorded in the medical records or occurring after the breast cancer patient terminated her membership in the Kaiser program would not be included in the analysis. Therefore, some comparison cases may have actually experienced a subsequent pregnancy and be miscoded.

KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 105 women with a history of subsequent pregnancy have been matched to 335 comparison breast cancer cases to assess the risk of recurrence and death from breast cancer
- Matching criteria were of necessity broadened to include an adequate number of comparison cases for meaningful analyses
- Neither recorded recurrences nor deaths due to breast cancer differed by subsequent pregnancy status
- Results from this retrospective analyses of medical record data are similar to finding from previously reported prospective and retrospective studies

REPORTABLE OUTCOMES:

- Preliminary findings were reported at the Department of Defense Era of Hope meeting in June 2000
Preliminary results were reported to breast cancer patients participating in the Columbia Presbyterian Women at Risk program in January 2001.

Results were presented at epidemiology rounds in October 2001 to students and faculty of the Mailman School of Public Health.

Manuscripts are being prepared although additional follow-up time would provide reassurance of no adverse effects of term or interrupted subsequent pregnancy on disease-free survival.

CONCLUSIONS:

Since the risk of developing breast cancer is increased with older age at first birth and a 70% increase in first births to women ages 40 to 44 have been reported between 1990 and 1999, the incidence of breast cancer among young women during their childbearing years may rise. Therefore, the safety of pregnancy following breast cancer will grow in importance to patients and their clinicians. The results of this study and others published in the last 10 years are reassuring. Additional analyses are being conducted to assess survival in relation to the optimum interval of delay between diagnosis and first subsequent pregnancy and the total number of subsequent pregnancies. Additional follow-up has been requested to confirm the findings observed in this report with a minimum of five years considered desirable.

Findings from the prospective menstrual cycle maintenance study will be compared with these and future retrospective analyses in relation to the self-selective nature of breast cancer patients in these studies. Analyses will focus on women desiring childbearing or considering pregnancy interruption and the effects of these pregnancy have on survival. The complimentary nature of the retrospective study and the prospective study provide opportunities for important contributions to understanding more of the biology of breast cancer growth and dissemination.

REFERENCES:


Figure 1: Does subsequent pregnancy influence breast cancer survival?
PREGNANCY AFTER BREAST CANCER WORKSHEET

NAME: ________________________  START DATE: ________________________
MR#: ________________________  COMPLETED: ________________________
DOB: ________________________  CASE#: _______  CONTROL: _______

CHART STATUS:  C: ____________  M: ____________

PRIMARY KAISER FACILITY: ____________  RACE: 1-HISPANIC  2-ASIAN
                                          3-BLACK  4-WHITE  5-OTHER: ____________
RELIGION: ________________________

CRITERIA FOR STUDY

DIAGNOSIS CONFIRMED?—YES NO
AGE < 45 AT DX?—YES NO
ABLE TO BECOME PREGNANT?—YES NO
CONCURRENT PREGNANCY WITH DX?—YES NO
KAISER MEMBER AT TIME OF DX—YES NO
STATUS AT FIRST TRIMESTER OF PG SAME?—YES NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA FOR STUDY</th>
<th>J A N</th>
<th>F E B</th>
<th>M A R</th>
<th>A P R</th>
<th>M A Y</th>
<th>J U N</th>
<th>J U L</th>
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<th>S E P</th>
<th>O C T</th>
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<td>DATE OF FIRST S/S DOCUMENTED</td>
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<td>Recurrence? yes____ no____ no data____</td>
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</table>

S/S = Signs/Symptoms  DX = Diagnosis Date  PRG = Pregnancy Confirmed  Codes: 1 4 5 = Preg Outcome
**PRIMARY CANCER #1**

**DATE OF FIRST DX OF CANCER:**

**STAGE AT DX:**
- Carcinoma in Situ
- Localized Disease
- Tumor with Regional Spread
- Distant Metastasis

**METHOD OF FIRST DETECTION:**
- SELF EXAM
- CLINICAL EXAM
- BIOPSY (Procedure / Date):
- BIOPSY (Procedure / Date):
- MAMMOGRAM:
  - Negative
  - Suspicious
  - Not Done
  - Positive

**FIRST BREAST SURGERY DATE:**
- MASTECTOMY
- LUMPECTOMY
- WEDGE

**PROCEDURE:**

**AXILLARY DISSECTION:**
- Y
- N

**TUMOR TYPE:**
- IN SITU
- INVASIVE / INFILTRATIVE

**TUMOR ER Status:**
- (+) (-)
- Borderline
- N/A
- < 3 = (-)
- 3 - 100 = (+)
- > 100 = (+++)

**TUMOR PR Status:**
- (+) (-)
- Borderline
- N/A
- 0 - 5 = (-)
- 5 - 100 = (+)
- > 100 = (+++)

**ADJUVANT TREATMENT CANCER #1**

**RADIATION DATES:**
- HIGHEST RAD's RECEIVED

**CHEMOTHERAPY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>START</th>
<th>STOP</th>
<th>TOTAL MONTHS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADRIAMYCIN (DOXORUBICIN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VINCristine</td>
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<td>VINBLASTINE</td>
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<td>5-FLUOROURACIL (5FU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MITOMYCIN</td>
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<td>OTHER</td>
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</table>

**HORMONE THERAPY**

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<td>TAMC/AFEN</td>
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<td>ANDROGENS</td>
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<td>DES</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SURGERY CANCER #1

DATE OF SECOND BREAST SURGERY: ___________ REASON FOR SX: RESIDUAL RECURRENCE (After TX)
SECOND BREAST SURGERY TYPE: _______ MASTECTOMY _______ LUMPECTOMY _______ WEDGE _______ LOCAL EXCISION
PROCEDURE: ____________________________________________________________
AXILLARY DISSECTION: _______ NODES#____(+____ TUMOR SIZE:_____.____(CM)

DATE RECURRENCE FIRST DETECTED: ________________________
DATE_______ LOCAL (SKIN, CHEST WALL, REMAINING BREAST TISSUE AFTER LUMPECTOMY)
DATE_______ REGIONAL (AXILLARY NODES, SUPERCLAVICULAR NODES)
DATE_______ DISTANT (FURTHEST MOST SEVERE): ________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY CANCER HISTORY</th>
<th>BREAST</th>
<th>OVARIAN</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - PRIMARY FAMILY MEMBER (Mother, Sister, Daughter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 - SECONDARY RELATIVE (Aunts, Grandmother)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RELATIVES</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 - NO FAMILY HISTORY</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PRIOR PREGNANCIES

FERTILITY TX WITH HORMONES: YES____ NO ____
TOTAL PREGNANCIES____ BIRTH CONTROL METHOD____

TRYING TO BECOME PREGNANT?__________________________
HX OF FERTILITY PROBLEMS?_________________________
PREGNANCY RELATED COMPLICATIONS?____________________

STERILIZATION DATE:____________________________ PROCEDURE:____________________________ REASON:____________________

PREGNANCY OUTCOMES

1 - LIVE BIRTH - (Term) 2 - LIVE BIRTH - (Pre-Term) 3 - STILLBIRTH
4 - ABORTION (GEST. AGE) 5 - MISCARRIAGE 6 - ECTOPIC / TUBAL
7 - UNCERTAIN 8 - OTHER____________________

PREGNANCY #1: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #2: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #3: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #4: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #5: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #6: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #7: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #8: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #9: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #10: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #11: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #12: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #13: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #14: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #15: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #16: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
PREGNANCY #17: OUTCOME:_____ DATE:______ NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:________________________
SUBSEQUENT PREGNANCIES

FERTILITY TX WITH HORMONES: YES_______ NO TOTAL PREGNANCIES________________

DESIRE PREGNANCY AFTER CANCER?__________________________________________

HISTORY OF FERTILITY PROBLEMS?___________________________________________

HISTORY OF PREGNANCY RELATED COMPLICATIONS?______________________________

STERILIZATION DATE:_____________PROCEDURE:_____________REASON____________

BIRTH CONTROL AFTER PREGNANCY:_____________TYPE:_____________DURATION:_____

PREGNANCY OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIVE BIRTH - (Term)</td>
<td>LIVE BIRTH - (Pre-Term)</td>
<td>STILLBIRTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABORTION (Gest. age)</td>
<td>MISCARRIAGE</td>
<td>ECTOPIC / TUBAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCERTAIN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PREGNANCY #1: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #2: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #3: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #4: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #5: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #6: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #7: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #8: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #9: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:_____________________

PREGNANCY #10: OUTCOME:_____DATE:_______NORMAL NEWBORN? Y N:__________________

DATE OF LAST KAISER CONTACT:_________________ DATE OF DEATH:_________________

STATUS AT LAST CONTACT: 1 - ALIVE - FREE OF DISEASE
                          2 - ALIVE - RECURRENT DISEASE
                          3 - DEAD - FROM BREAST CANCER (date)__________
                          4 - DEAD - OTHER THAN BREAST CANCER (mechanism)__________
                          5 - DEAD - UNABLE TO DETERMINE

KAISER PATIENT CURRENTLY?  Y   N   UNK

FORWARDING INFORMATION / COMMENTS / ADDITIONAL ADJUVANT RESTART DATES:_________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
PRIMARY CANCER #2

DATE OF SECOND PRIMARY DX OF CANCER: ___________  DX: ____________________________

HEIGHT _______ FT' _______ IN"  WEIGHT _______ (2.2KG = 1 lb)

METHOD OF FIRST DETECTION: ______ SELF PALPITATION
_______ CLINICAL EXAM
_______ BIOPSY (Procedure)
_______ MAMMOGRAM: (+) (-) SUSPICIOUS NOT DONE

FIRST BREAST SURGERY DATE: __________________ PROCEDURE: ________________________

AXILLARY DISSECTION:  Y  N  NODES#____(+)____  TUMOR SIZE: ______ . ______(CM)

TUMOR TYPE:  IN SITU  INVASIVE / INFILTRATIVE
TUMOR ER STATUS: (+)____(-)____Borderline, N/A  TUMOR PR STATUS: (+)____(-)____Borderline, N/A

ADJUVANT TREATMENT CANCER #2

RADIATION DATES: __________________________ HIGHEST RAD's RECEIVED ______________________

CHEMOTHERAPY  START_______ STOP _______ TOTAL MONTHS_______

ADRIAMYCIN (DOXORUBICIN)  LEUKERAN  CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE (CYTOXIN)
VINCristine  TAXOL  S-FLUOROURACIL (5FU)
METHOTREXATE  MELPHALAN  MITOMYCIN
PREDNISONE  VIBLASTINE  OTHER: ____________________________

HORMONE THERAPY  START_______ STOP_______ TOTAL MONTHS_______

HALOTESTIN  TAMOXIFEN  DES
ESTROGENS  ANDROGENS  OTHER: ____________________________

SECOND SURGERY CANCER #2

DATE OF SECOND BREAST SURGERY: ___________ REASON FOR SX: RESIDUAL RECURRENCE

SECOND BREAST SURGERY TYPE:  MASTECTOMY  LUMPECTOMY  WEDGE  LOCAL EXCISION

AXILLARY DISSECTION:  Y  N  NODES#____(+)____  TUMOR SIZE: ______ . ______(CM)

DATE RECURRENCE FIRST DETECTED: __________________________

DATES____LOCAL (SKIN, CHEST WALL, REMAINING BREAST TISSUE AFTER LUMPECTOMY)

DATES____REGIONAL (AXILLARY NODES, SUPERCLAVICULAR NODES)

DATES____DISTANT (FURTHEST MOST SEVERE): __________________________
MEMORANDUM FOR Administrator, Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC-OCA), 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6218

SUBJECT: Request Change in Distribution Statement

1. The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command has reexamined the need for the limitation assigned to technical reports written for this Command. Request the limited distribution statement for the enclosed accession document numbers be changed to "Approved for public release; distribution unlimited." Copies of these reports should be released to the National Technical Information Service.

2. Point of contact for this request is Ms. Judy Pawlus at DSN 343-7322 or by e-mail at judy.pawlus@det.amedd.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encl

PHYLIS M. RINEHART
Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management