EARLY COMPLICATIONS OF BREAST CANCER TREATMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN BRAZILIAN WOMEN

Methods

Participants were women with unilateral breast cancer, requiring oncological treatment in National Cancer Institute-Brazil between June 2009 and March 2010. QOL before treatment was assessed using EORTC QLC-C30 and BR23 module. Information about early post-operative complications (auxiliary web syndrome, pain and subjective symptoms related to early oedema in the upper limbs) were obtained by physical examination 30 days after surgery, collected using a standardised form. Bivariate analyses of dichotomous variables and independent variables were carried out and ORs, with 95% CIs present.

Results

181 women were studied. Patients who reported good health overall were 57% less likely to experience early subjective oedema (95% CI 0.20 to 0.96). Symptoms scale of BR23 was negatively associated with pain (OR = 0.11; 95% CI 0.21 to 0.73). Patients with good functionality-C30 were less likely to experience pain (OR = 0.66 95% CI (0.15 to 0.75)). There was no statistically significant association with axillary web syndrome.

Conclusions

In this study pre-treatment QOL in women with breast cancer was a useful predictor of early post-operative complications.

PREGNANCY, EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES AND INFANT LEUKAEMIA IN BRAZIL

Methods

Participants were women with breast cancer and that involved with childhood leukaemia. From a database of clinical and epidemiological data obtained from hospital-based multicenter case-control study, and were interviewed mothers of 252 IL cases and of 423 controls. Data were obtained regarding environmental maternal exposure during periconceptional, pregnancy and breast-feeding periods, including exposure to pesticides. Unconditional logistic regression was performed and ORs on the association between maternal pesticides exposure and IL, including their 95% CIs, were ascertainment after adjustment to hormonal intake during pregnancy, mother’s age, mother’s level of education, birth weight and infant’s skin colour. An adjusted OR, 2.39, 95% CI 1.65 to 3.51 was observed for the association between IL and maternal exposure to pesticides during pregnancy, being higher for acute myeloid leukaemia (adjusted OR 5.50, 95% CI 2.01 to 6.11). The use of pyrethroids during pregnancy revealed an OR 2.18 (95% CI 1.44 to 3.29), while the use of other pesticides showed an OR 3.61 (95% CI 1.69 to 7.73). The reported household use of pesticides revealed an adjusted OR 2.25 (95% CI 1.48 to 3.45), and agriculture exposure showed an adjusted OR 9.26 (95% CI 2.82 to 30.4). Mixed exposure to different pesticides showed an adjusted OR 3.83 (95% CI 1.33 to 11.0) and the exposure to different chemical classes revealed an adjusted OR, 8.57 (95% CI 1.55 to 50.6). The observed results seem to support the hypothesis that mothers’ household use of pesticides and other contaminants may be involved in the aetiologic of infant leukaemia.

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ON EARLY COMPLICATIONS IN WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER IN A REFERENCE CENTRE IN BRAZIL

Introduction

Studies suggest that good social support is associated with a reduction in post-treatment complications in breast cancer. The aim of this study is to evaluate the association between quality of life (QOL) before treatment for breast cancer and early post-operative complications in the National Cancer Institute-Brazil.

Methods

Participants were women with breast cancer and that presented to the Brazilian National Cancer Institute between June 2009 and March 2010. MOS-SSS was used to assessment of social support before oncology treatment. Information about early post-operative complications were obtained by physical examination 30 days after surgery and collected in a standardised form. Bivariate analysis between dichotomous outcome and selected independent variables were conducted and RRs with 95% CIs were presented.

Results

181 eligible women were studied. Patients with good emotional and affective support had a 76% (95% CI 0.10 to 0.57) reduced risk and 62% (0.12 to 0.64) reduced risk of pain respectively. Better material support was associated with a 73% (0.11 to 0.62) reduction in the risk of pain. No significant association with early oedema was observed.

Conclusions

Good social support was associated with reduced risk of post-operative complications in women undergoing treatment for breast cancer.