

EXPLORING BARRIERS TO TIMELY BREAST CANCER CARE : IMPLICATIONS FOR AFFORDABLE AND PATIENT - CENTERED HEALTH SYSTEMS

(HSD11)

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BACKGROUND

- Breast cancer remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among women worldwide, particularly in developing countries such as India.
- Delayed diagnosis and inadequate healthcare utilization are major challenges influenced by emotional, socioeconomic, and accessibility-related barriers.
- Future innovations in health should support timely, affordable, accessible, and patient-centered interventions by addressing these barriers.

OBJECTIVES:

- To assess health-seeking behaviour and factors influencing timely healthcare utilization.
- To identify emotional, socioeconomic, accessibility, and affordability-related barriers to timely care.
- To evaluate factors associated with delayed diagnosis and healthcare utilization:

METHOD:

STUDY DESIGN

- Prospective cross-sectional study

SETTING

Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)

DURATION

- March 2022 – September 2022

ETHICAL APPROVAL

Obtained IEC Approval (CSP/22/MAR/106/87; 31/03/2022)

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

- Female patients aged >18 years with a recent diagnosis of breast cancer, irrespective of cancer stage, who provided informed consent.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Patients who declined participation.
- Patients diagnosed with cancer types other than breast cancer

STUDY POPULATION

260 female breast cancer patients

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical analysis was performed using descriptive statistics and ANOVA in SPSS version 23.

DATA COLLECTION

Data Collection Tools:

- Cancer Awareness Measure Plus (CAM PLUS)
- Breast Cancer Awareness Measure (B-CAM)

Data Collected:

- Demographics, awareness, health-seeking behaviour, delayed presentation, and barriers to healthcare utilization

RESULTS

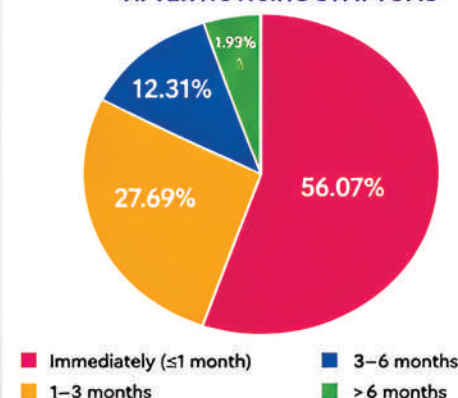
260
Female breast cancer patients included

56.07%
Sought healthcare immediately after noticing symptoms

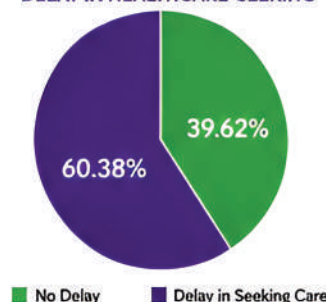
AVERAGE
Overall health-seeking behaviour among participants

Limited awareness of breast cancer symptoms contributed to delayed healthcare utilization

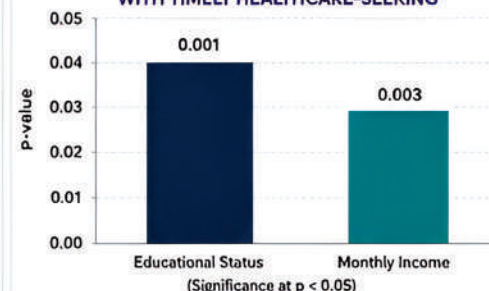
TIME TO SEEK HEALTHCARE AFTER NOTICING SYMPTOMS



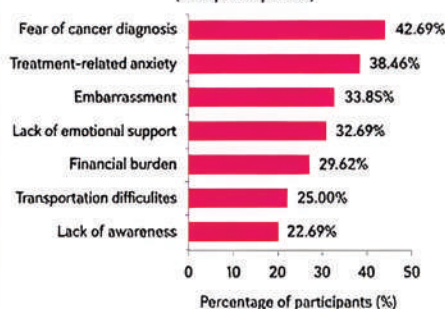
DELAY IN HEALTHCARE-SEEKING



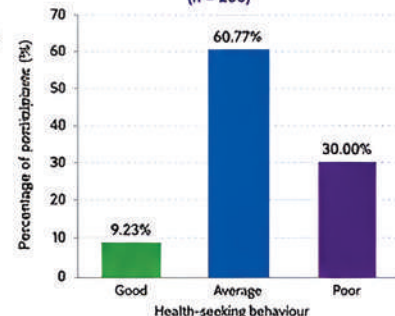
FACTORS SIGNIFICANTLY ASSOCIATED WITH TIMELY HEALTHCARE-SEEKING



BARRIERS TO TIMELY HEALTHCARE-SEEKING (multiple responses)



OVERALL HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR (n = 260)



CONCLUSION:



Emotional barriers such as fear, anxiety, and lack of support can delay timely breast cancer care.



Financial constraints and transportation difficulties can limit healthcare utilization.



Affordable care, accessible screening, awareness, and psychological support can promote early healthcare-seeking.

STUDY LIMITATIONS:

- Single-centre study
- Limited applicability to other populations
- Potential recall and response bias

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Larger multicentre studies
- Community-based awareness programmes
- Accessible & affordable screening
- Psychological support interventions
- Patient & family education

CONTACT AND DISCLOSURE:-

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