

Early diagnosis of breast cancer saved loss of employment and productivity for women: Real world evidence of lifetime impact

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INTRODUCTION

Women with breast cancer may survive with the disease for a long time with fair quality of life and work. To quantify the employment status may provide different insights to the women and to the health technology assessment from a societal perspective. Hence, we estimated the lifetime employment duration (LED), LED loss, lifetime productivity (LP) and LP loss of women with breast cancer (BC) stratified by stages and age.

SUBJECTS & METHODS

We recruited 113,169 women with BC (*i*) diagnosed during 2002-2016 from Cancer Registry and followed until 2018 and estimated their lifetime survival function (*S*(*t*)) through iSQoL2 R package. Their monthly employment-population ratio (EMRATIO, *E*(*t*)) and insured salary (*Sa*(*t*)) were abstracted from National Health Insurance (NHI) until 2017 and they were assumed 0 after 65 years old (conditional). We extrapolated them based on an association of BC's hazard and the employed status with a sex-, age-, and calendar year-matched referents (*r*) generated from NHI, as the following equations:

$$\text{logit}(E(t|i)) - \text{logit}(E(t|r)) = \beta_0 + \beta_1(\log(h(t|i)) - \log(h(t|r))) + \epsilon t$$

$$\log(Sa(t|i)) - \log(Sa(t|r)) = \beta_0 + \beta_1(\log(h(t|i)) - \log(h(t|r))) + \epsilon t$$

The area under lifetime (*S*(*t*)) × *E*(*t*) and (*S*(*t*)) × *Sa*(*t*) were LED and LP. The subtraction of them of women with BC from the matched referents were the LED loss and LP loss.

RESULTS

The LED loss of women aged 18-39, 40-44, and 45-49 with stage I were 1.3 year, 0.2 year and 0.3 year (with 6.2%, 1.3%, 2.8% loss), respectively, while the LP of some outperformed the matched referents with 2%, -5.7% and -6.4% loss, respectively. The LED loss of women aged 45-49 with BC staging above II were 1 year, 3.4 years, and 8 years (with 9.7%, 31.6%, 74.6% loss), respectively, while the corresponding LP loss proportions were 5.8%, 31.9%, 75.9%, respectively. For the 18-39 group, the proportions of LED loss were at least three folds if they were diagnosed at stages more advanced than stage II.

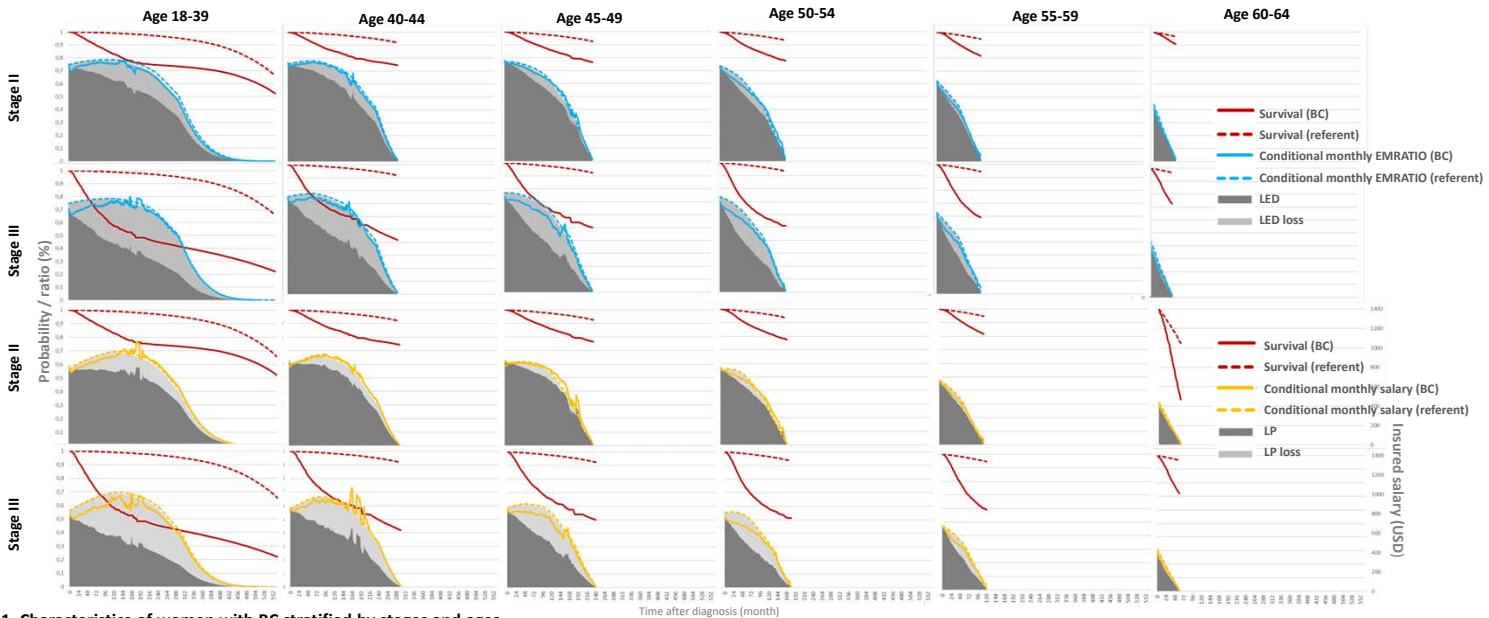


Table 1. Characteristics of women with BC stratified by stages and ages

	stage 0												stage I												stage II												stage III												stage IV												stage unknown											
Age	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64																																				
No.	1584	2108	3889	3351	2617	2054	4333	5272	7777	7102	6003	4760	5055	5701	7953	7380	6325	4782	2048	2250	3227	3431	2961	2060	618	748	1190	1371	1307	945	362	439	631	643	511	381																																				
Censored (%)	97.9	98.2	98.1	97.4	96.7	96.5	94.3	95.6	95.5	94.8	94.6	93.9	86.5	88.5	89	86.6	85.8	85.4	65.9	70.4	70	65.4	66.1	65.1	29.4	27.7	26.6	24.1	25.4	26.5	61.9	63.3	66.6	66.7	56.6	59.1																																				
LE	48.7	41.8	26.6	38.8	30.8	28	44.4	37.6	34.2	31.5	27.3	25.8	40.2	35.8	32.4	27.8	23.3	21.0	24.0	21.9	22.5	21.0	18.7	14.6	5.4	7.0	5.6	5.2	6.0	4.8	26.3	24.5	23.5	21.9	17.3	15.0																																				
	(1.5)	(5.3)	(6.9)	(1.8)	(3.5)	(3.1)	(2.2)	(3.4)	(2.8)	(1.2)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(2.3)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.4)	(0.8)	(0.6)	(4.0)	(4.3)	(2.1)	(1.0)	(0.9)	(1.3)	(0.8)	(1.3)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(3.7)	(2.9)	(2.2)	(2.1)	(1.2)	(1.0)																																				
Loss-of-LE	1.2	0.5	1.1	-5.6	-2.2	-3.9	5.0	4.7	3.6	1.6	1.3	-1.7	9.2	6.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	3.1	25.1	20.4	15.2	11.9	10.0	9.5	44.1	35.3	32.1	28.0	22.7	19.4	23.2	17.9	14.1	11.2	11.4	9.2																																				
	(1.6)	(5.3)	(6.9)	(1.8)	(3.5)	(3.1)	(2.2)	(3.4)	(2.9)	(1.2)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(2.3)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.4)	(0.8)	(0.6)	(4.0)	(4.3)	(2.1)	(1.0)	(0.9)	(1.3)	(0.9)	(1.3)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(3.7)	(2.9)	(2.2)	(2.2)	(1.2)	(1.0)																																				
Employment classification (%)																																																																								
Employer	1.1	1.8	2.8	3.5	2.4	2.6	1.4	1.9	2.8	3.0	3.2	2.2	1.3	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.7	1.7	1.4	1.6	2.3	2.2	2.5	1.4	1.9	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.7	1.6	3.0	1.8	2.1	1.4	2.0	3.1																																				
Government	9.8	14.4	12.7	10.1	5.9	4.1	9.3	11.4	11.7	9.1	6.1	3.4	8.4	9.3	9.4	7.0	4.5	2.4	8.2	9.6	7.5	6.2	5.0	2.6	6.6	8.6	6.5	5.1	4.1	3.6	5.5	7.1	9.0	5.4	3.1	2.1																																				
Private	68.1	65.9	66.0	61.6	54.5	35.1	66.9	65.8	65.0	63.5	53.5	36.5	65.1	65.4	66.0	63.0	53.9	37.1	60.8	63.0	64.2	61.2	53.4	35.6	60.0	58.6	59.0	54.1	46.2	28.9	56.4	56.7	57.8	56.1	43.8	33.3																																				
Unemployed	21.0	17.9	18.5	24.7	37.2	58.1	22.5	20.9	20.4	24.4	37.2	57.9	25.2	23.5	22.2	27.2	38.9	58.9	29.5	25.9	26.0	30.4	39.2	60.5	31.4	31.6	33.1	38.7	47.1	65.9	35.1	34.4	31.1	37.0	51.1	61.4																																				
Monthly	920	960	920	920	840	760	800	800	800	880	880	760	760	760	760	760	800	730	760	730	730	760	760	730	730	730	730	730	760	760	730	730	730	730	730	700																																				
Insured salary*	(733)	(987)	(827)	(763)	(670)	(1295)	(760)	(821)	(793)	(700)	(733)	(1232)	(633)	(697)	(633)	(570)	(633)	(1116)	(647)	(633)	(520)	(520)	(570)	(1118)	(530)	(521)	(480)	(534)	(1101)	(1118)	(534)	(638)	(534)	(480)	(1118)	(1093)																																				

LE and LE loss were mean (SE) in years. *: Initially insured, median (IQR), USD.

Table 2. Lifetime employment duration (LED), LED loss, lifetime productivity (LP) and LP loss

	stage 0						stage I						stage II						stage III						stage IV						stage unknown						
Age	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	18-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	
LED _{bc}	20.7	15.6	11	7.3	3.7	1	18.8	14.3	10.5	7.2	3.6	1	16	12.5	9.8	6.4	3.4	1	11.4	9.7	7.4	4.9	2.9	0.9	3.5	3.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	0.5	10.2	8.8	7	4.8	2.4	0.9	
	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.5)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.9)	(0.5)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.9)	(0.7)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.1)	
LED _{ref}	20.4	14.4	10.8	7.1	3.6	1.1	20	14.4	10.8	7.1	3.6	1.1	20.1	14.5	10.8	7.1	3.7	1.1	19.9	14.5	10.8	7.1	3.7	1.1	20.2	14.5	10.7	7	3.7	1.1	20.1	14.6	10.8	7.2	3.8	1.2	
	(0.1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0.1)	(0)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0.1)	(0)	(0.1)	(0)	(0.1)	(0)	(0.1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	
LED loss	-0.3	-1.2	-0.2	-0.2	0	0.1	0	1.3	0.2	0.3	0	0	0.1	0	0.1	1.9	1	0.7	0.3	0.1	8.5	4.8	3.4	2.2	0.8	0.2	16.7	11.2	8	5.1	2.3	0.6	9.9	5.7	3.8	2.4	1.4
	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0)	0.1	0	0.3	(0.2)	(0.1)	0	0	0.1	(0.6)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0)	(0.6)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.7)	(0.6)	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.2)	
	-1.5	-8.4	-2.3	-2.3	-1.4	4.3	6.2	1.3	2.8	-0.6	1.8	7.4	20.5	13.4	9.7	9.8	9	9.3	42.9	33	31.6	30.6	22.7	20	82.8	77.2	74.6	72.3	62.3	50.6	49.4	39.3	35.1	32.8	37.8	25	
	(19.5)	792.2	529.9	328.9	157.6	41	843.5	648.7	480	320.1	152.3	40.7	712.5	546.8	422.4	262.4	131.8	37.4	460	423.3	302.7	191.8	111.9	32.9	125.4	142.1	107.7	78.5	54	20.9	410.7	380.6	268.9	192.3	94.4	33.2	
LP _{bc}	970.1	792.2	529.9	328.9	157.6	41	843.5	648.7	480	320.1	152.3	40.7	712.5	546.8	422.4	262.4	131.8	37.4	460	423.3	302.7	191.8	111.9	32.9	125.4	142.1	107.7	78.5	54	20.9	410.7	380.6	268.9	192.3	94.4	33.2	
	(19.5)	(22.5)	(15.9)	(8.5)	(5.5)	(1.7)	(33.8)	(11.9)	(5.2)	(9)	(3.2)	(0.9)	(28.2)	(11.2)	(4.4)	(9.5)	(4.7)	(2.6)	(1)	(40.2)	(28.4)	(9.9)	(5.9)	(3.2)	(1.2)	(9.5)	(21.3)	(10.6)	(7.4)	(3.2)	(1.5)	(39.9)	(25.2)	(15.4)	(17.6)	(6.6)	(3.3)
LP _{ref}	875.3	612.5	453.6	290.7	143.9	39.8	860.3	613.8	451.1	288.9	142.4	40.1	861.6	612.2	448.5	286.4	144	40.8	852.9	610.2	444.7	283.7	144.4	40.5	867.5	613.1	446.1	285.8	143.3	39.7	856	611.7	441.2	284.3	144.8	41.3	
	(3.1)	(1)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.6)	(0.5)	(1.6)	(0.9)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.5)	(0.3)	(1.8)	(0.8)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(2.5)	(1.1)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.5)	(1.5)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.7)	(6.6)	(3.1)	(2.3)	(2)	(1.6)	(1.3)	
	-94.8	-179.8	-76.3	-38.2	-13.7	-1.2	16.9	35	-28.8	-31.2	-9.9	0.5	149.2	65.4	26.1	24	12.3	3.4	392.9	186.8	142	91.9	32.5	7.6	742	471	338.4	207.3	89.2	18.8	445.3	231.2	172.3	92	50.4	8	
	(29.4)	(21.3)	(12)	(9.2)	(3.6)	(1.6)	(14.4)	(11.3)	(8)	(2.5)	(3)	(1)	30	(11.5)	(8)	(2.5)	(2.1)	(0.8)	(25.6)	(15.5)	(9.2)	(5.2)	(3.3)	(1.3)	(10.6)	(16.5)	(7.4)	(7.3)	(4.5)	(2.7)	(1.5)	(37.5)	(34.2)	(15.1)	(10.4)	(6.6)	(2.9)
LP loss	-10.8	-29.4	-16.8	-13.1	-9.5	-2.9	2	5.7	-6.4	-10.8	-6.9	-1	13.3	17.3	10.7	5.8	8.4	8.5	8.3	46.1	30.6	31.9	32.4	22.5	18.7	85.5	76.8	75.9	72.5	62.3	47.5	52	37.8	39.3	32.4	34.8	19.5