

3936048 PPH/M : MAJOR : INFECTIOUS DISEASE ; M.Sc (PUBLIC HEALTH)

KEY WORD : SURVIVAL / BREAST CANCER / THAILAND

PITTAYA SINGTOTONG : SURVIVAL OF PATIENTS WITH BREAST CANCER IN THAILAND BETWEEN 1992-1996. THESIS ADVISOR : JAYANTON PATUMANOND, M.D.,D.Sc.(CLINICAL EPID)., NATCHAPORN PICHAINARONG, Ph.D. (EPID)., DUSIT SUJIRARAT, M.Sc.(BIOSTAT)., CHAUNPIS BUNYARATAWET, M.D. (BOARD OF GENERAL SURGERY), 124 p. , ISBN 974 - 589 - 739 - 6

This retrospective cohort study assesses the influence of some factors on survival pattern of patients with breast cancer. A total of 5,332 incident cases of breast cancer diagnosed during 1st January 1992 - 31st December 1996 in Thailand were selected systematically. Follow up for this study ended on 30th September 1997. Patients' medical records and relevant data were reviewed. Mean age of the patients is 49 years. In all, 1,403 died from all causes of death (26%). The overall 5 years survival in this study was 60.50%.

Univariate analysis by Kaplan-Meier and Logrank test showed that all factors except gender histopathological grading and organ metastasis were significantly related to survival. In multivariate analysis using Cox's proportional hazards model, the following factors remain significant ; age at diagnosis ($p<0.001$), stage of disease ($p<0.001$), tumor size ($p=0.026$), lymphnode involvement ($p<0.001$), metastasis ($p<0.001$), site of tumor ($p=0.036$), progesterone receptor ($p=0.047$), cell type ($p=0.024$) and methodology of treatment ($p=0.036$).

The result of the study should be taken into consideration in any programme relating to cancer awareness or early detection of breast cancer in Thailand. Special attention should be given to women diagnosed at age 15-29 years old, who have poorer survival. This may be done through health education programmes to encourage participation in a screening programme as well as to practise self breast examination or to seek physical examination regularly.