



Effective Health Care Radiation and Chemotherapy for Early Invasive Breast Cancer Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Radiation and chemotherapy for early invasive breast cancer was found to be addressed by existing and ongoing work by the Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group (EBCTCG), the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), and Adjuvant! Online. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator questions whether patients with small (<1.0 cm) invasive breast cancer need to undergo radiation and/or chemotherapy after surgery with or without hormonal therapy. The nominator states that radiation and chemotherapy are expensive treatments that are associated with significant side effects. He states that these small invasive cancers have very high cure rates with surgery alone.

Key Questions from Nominator: 1. Do patients with small (<1.0 cm) invasive breast cancers need to undergo radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy?

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- The major source of evidence-based guidance for clinicians on the treatment of breast cancer is the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines. These guidelines are available through the NCCN website: <http://www.nccn.org/index.asp>.
- The Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group (EBCTCG) conducts meta-analyses of centrally collected data from every woman in all randomized trials of the treatment of early breast cancer. EBCTCG meta-analyses are completed every five years and incorporate clinical questions on newer treatment strategies in each cycle. The most recent meta-analysis was published in 2007 and addresses the use of adjuvant polychemotherapy in estrogen-receptor-poor breast cancer. Data from

the EBCTCG meta-analyses are also incorporated into the formulation of guidelines from the NCCN. Reports from the EBCTCG can be found at: <http://www.ctsu.ox.ac.uk/projects/ebctcg>.

- Adjuvant! Online is an evidence-based program that draws on information from the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database, individual clinical trial results, and relevant literature. Estimates of prognosis are based mainly on data from the SEER registry, while estimates of the efficacy of adjuvant hormonal therapy and chemotherapy are based mainly on findings from the EBCTCG meta-analyses and from individual trials of adjuvant systemic therapy. Adjuvant! Online is available for use by clinicians at: <http://www.adjuvantonline.com/index.jsp>.