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Assessment of factors delaying the diagnosis of breast cancer in patients at radiation & isotope center khartoum, Sudan in 2018

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Statement: breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer worldwide.50% of breast cancer cases and 58% of the deaths from breast cancer occur in developing countries. In 2011 it was estimated that 508,000 women died due to breast cancer globally, Prevention strategies can lead to some reduction but they can't eliminate the majority of breast cancer cases that occur in low-and middle-income countries, In such countries the diagnosis of breast cancer occurs in very late stages .Therefore, early detection remains the cornerstone of breast cancer control .¹ There is strong evidence that delayed presentation of symptomatic breast cancer is associated with lower survival, Patients with total delays of 3-6 months have significantly worse survival than those with delays of less than 3 months.² In Sudan breast cancer is one of the five most common cancers by incidence and prevalence.³ The purpose of this study is to identify factors delaying the detection of breast cancer to improve the health system approach towards decreasing it's morbidity and mortality. Methodology: a case series study, 79 patients participated in the study. The data was collected using questionnaire and from hospital records, then interpreted and analyzed using SPSS version 16.The data was presented using frequency tables and the relationships between dependent and independent variables were described using cross tabulation tables. Findings: level of education, knowledge of breast cancer, interpretation of symptoms, economical status and distance from health facility were found to be affecting health seeking behavior and delaying first presentation of patients to health care facilities. The social delay was more than 3 months for most of the patients. System delay is mostly affected by the first healthcare personnel experience and his professional suspicion of breast cancer and the timely referral of patients. System delay in most cases was 1-2 months.

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