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J Molecular Cancer
Volume 2

Joint event on

World Congress on **Breast Cancer**
&
5th International Conference on
Vascular Biology & Surgeons Meeting

February 25-26, 2019 London, UK

Epidemiology and molecular subtype status of breast cancer: Bangladesh perspective.

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Background: Molecular subtyping of breast cancer is still not very common in all hospitals of Bangladesh. Here genetic analysis is unthinkable till now. But the highest centers of the country are regularly doing immunohistochemistry through which molecular subtyping are determined and it opened a newer dimension of breast cancer treatment in Bangladesh.

Objective: To observe the incidence, epidemiological and clinico-pathological status of different molecular subtypes of breast cancer patients.

Materials and method: At first 149 patients were enrolled by purposive sampling. Among them 138 patients were finalized according to the eligibility criteria. A pre-structured, peer reviewed, properly tested, interview and observation based data collection sheet was prepared. Data regarding epidemiological profile, clinical profile and histopathological profile were collected, compiled, edited and analyzed. Mean, frequency, chi-square test were adopted for analysis. Statistics were found significant at <0.05.

Results: Mean age of patients was 43.20±9.69 years. Mean BMI was 25.26±13.47. Out of 138 patients, only 4.34% had positive family history, 64.49% and 35.5% had left and right sided breast cancer respectively, 65.2% had tumour size 2-5cm which was followed by 27.53% cases with >5cm sized tumour in maximum diameter. Among the five major molecular subtypes both luminal A and triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) showed high prevalence (27.53%). Association of molecular subtypes with histopathological grading revealed TNBC was the most aggressive among all molecular subtypes. Axillary lymphadenopathy was present in almost all cases.

Conclusion: Luminal A and TNBC were observed as the most evident molecular subtypes among Bangladeshi breast cancer patients. TNBC showed higher association with advance histopathological grade. Clinical status was almost similar in all subtypes.

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