

October 2008 – Breast cancer

CPD questionnaires must be completed online via www.cpdjournals.org.za. After submission you can check the answers and print your certificate. Questions may be answered up to 6 months after publication of each issue.

MANAGEMENT OF LOCALLY ADVANCED BREAST CANCER

1. **Stage 3 cancer can include all the following except (choose one):**
 - A. Patients with distant metastases
 - B. Patients with T1 tumours
 - C. Patients with N2 tumours
 - D. Patients with ER+ve tumours
 - E. Patients with HER2-ve tumours.
2. **Choose one correct statement with regard to radiotherapy:**
 - A. Increases the rate of local recurrence
 - B. Improves survival in all patients
 - C. May cause cardiac problems
 - D. Always includes the axilla.

SYSTEMIC ADJUVANT THERAPY OF BREAST CANCER

3. **Tamoxifen ... (choose one):**
 - A. Works equally well in pre- and postmenopausal women
 - B. Is responsible for a high incidence of endometrial cancer
 - C. Has been largely superseded by the aromatase inhibitors in postmenopausal women
 - D. Is poorly tolerated by the majority of women
 - E. When given for 5 years, results in an approximately 25% decrease in the relapse rate.

DIAGNOSIS AND STAGING OF BREAST CANCER

4. **A 34-year-old woman reports a bloody nipple discharge after squeezing her breasts. Examination is normal. She is best managed by (choose one):**
 - A. Microdochoectomy
 - B. Serum prolactin measurement
 - C. Advising her to stop squeezing and follow up
 - D. Triple assessment
 - E. Nipple-areolar excision.
5. **True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**
Core-needle biopsy is the most specific investigation for detecting breast cancer.

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER

6. **The most common site of relapse is (choose one):**
 - A. Bone
 - B. Brain
 - C. Liver
 - D. Lung.
7. **The median time of survival for a patient with metastatic disease is (choose one):**
 - A. 6 months
 - B. 12 months
 - C. 18 months
 - D. 24 months
 - E. 30 months.

ROLE OF THE SURGEON IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BREAST CANCER

8. **With regard to neoadjuvant therapy, which one of the following is true?**
 - A. It improves survival
 - B. Hormone therapy cannot be used in a neoadjuvant setting
 - C. It can be used for both locally advanced and early breast cancer
 - D. It is given postoperatively.
9. **Sentinel lymph node biopsy is contraindicated if (choose one):**
 - A. Axillary nodes are palpable
 - B. The tumour is centrally placed
 - C. It is taken after a biopsy
 - D. The patient is young.

DUCTAL CARCINOMA IN SITU

10. **Sentinel lymph node biopsy is indicated for (choose one):**
 - A. All patients with DCIS
 - B. Patients undergoing a mastectomy
 - C. Patients with solid-type DCIS
 - D. All patients with microcalcifications on their mammogram
 - E. In ER+ve DCIS.

EPIDEMIOLOGY, RISK FACTORS AND GENETICS OF BREAST CANCER

11. **The risk of breast cancer is increased by (choose one):**
 - A. Having many children
 - B. Breast-feeding
 - C. Early menopause
 - D. Low body mass index
 - E. Prolonged use of hormone replacement therapy.
12. **True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**
Breast cancer genetic counselling is only about calculating a risk of developing breast cancer.

RADIATION THERAPY IN BREAST CANCER

13. **Choose the most appropriate answer with regard to women with lobular carcinoma:**
 - A. BCT is contraindicated
 - B. Radiotherapy after mastectomy is mandatory
 - C. The disease tends to be multicentric so mastectomy is indicated more often than with ductal carcinoma
 - D. Positive surgical margins are acceptable.
14. **In patients with nodal metastases, post-mastectomy adjuvant radiotherapy to the chest wall and regional nodes has been shown to (choose one):**
 - A. Improve loco-regional disease control only
 - B. Improve both locoregional control, and overall breast cancer specific survival
 - C. Only produce side-effects and have no benefits, and has been abandoned.

FERTILITY AFTER BREAST CANCER

15. **True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**
Surgery and radiotherapy for breast cancer do not affect a woman's ability to conceive.

LIFE AFTER CANCER TREATMENT

16. **True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**
Three out of 4 families will have a family member who is affected by cancer.

HIV AND BREAST CANCER

17. **True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**
In HIV-positive patients, diagnosis of a breast lump should not be made on cytology alone.

BREAST SCREENING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

18. **True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**
Pilot studies suggest that clinical breast examination by doctors may be an effective form of screening.

HERCEPTIN

19. **Choose one correct statement with regard to Herceptin:**
 - A. Should be prescribed to all patients with early breast cancer
 - B. Can cause profound myelosuppression
 - C. Targets the HER2 receptor, over-expressed in about 40% of early breast cancers
 - D. Can be prescribed both together with, and after, chemotherapy
 - E. Ideally should be given for 9 weeks together with chemotherapy.

LAPATINIB (TYKERB)

20. **True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**
The HER2 (ErbB2) receptor suggests an aggressive phenotype of breast cancer.

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