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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Weight Changes in Breast Cancer Survivors in a Nigerian Hospital: Pattern and Correlates

Changements de Poids chez les Survivantes du Cancer du Sein dans un Hôpital Nigérian : Modèle et Corrélations

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: One of the recognized issues faced by cancer survivors is increasing weight. Weight gain has been associated with an increased death rate in cancer survivors. Research on weight gain among breast cancer survivors (BCS) is scarce in Nigeria.

AIM: To assess the weight changes and its associated factors in breast cancer survivors (BCS).

Materials and Methods: A total of 98 breast cancer survivors attending the Radiation Oncology clinic were recruited. Sociodemographic variables, treatment history, weight at presentation, and present weight were obtained. Patients were then categorized into three groups: weight gain (>5% increase), stable weight (-5 to 5% change), or weight loss (>5% decrease).

RESULT: The present mean weight and BMI were significantly higher than at presentation (75.14 ± 17.59 kg vs 76.88 ± 17.42 kg, $p < 0.0001$) and (28.74 ± 6.30 vs 29.42 ± 6.20 , $p < 0.0001$) respectively. Only 28 (29.6%) gained weight, 65 (66.3%) maintained stable weight while 5 (5.1%) lost weight. On univariate analysis, older age, living with partners, presence of comorbidity, year of last chemotherapy less than one year, and hormonal therapy use were associated with weight gain. Multivariate analysis revealed that the presence of comorbidities, patients receiving the last chemotherapy less than a year from the time of recruitment, and hormonal therapy were independently associated with weight gain.

CONCLUSION: About a quarter of BCS gained weight. Older age, presence of comorbidity, year of last chemotherapy less than one year, and hormonal therapy use were associated with weight gain. The weight of cancer survivors should be monitored regularly during follow-up visits. **WAJM 2024; 41 (2): 203-208.**

KEYWORDS: Weight Changes, Breast Cancer Survivors, Correlates

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: L'une des problématiques reconnues rencontrées par les survivantes du cancer est la prise de poids croissante. La prise de poids a été associée à un taux de mortalité accru chez les survivantes du cancer. La recherche sur la prise de poids parmi les survivantes du cancer du sein (SCS) est rare au Nigeria.

OBJECTIF: Évaluer les changements de poids et leurs facteurs associés chez les survivantes du cancer du sein (SCS).

MATÉRIAUX ET MÉTHODES: Au total, 98 survivantes du cancer du sein fréquentant la clinique d'oncologie radiationnelle ont été recrutées. Les variables sociodémographiques, l'historique des traitements, le poids à la présentation et le poids actuel ont été obtenus. Les patients ont ensuite été répartis en trois groupes : prise de poids (augmentation >5%), poids stable (changement de -5 à 5%) ou perte de poids (diminution >5%).

RÉSULTAT: La moyenne actuelle du poids et de l'IMC étaient significativement plus élevés qu'à la présentation ($75,14 \pm 17,59$ kg contre $76,88 \pm 17,42$ kg, $p < 0,0001$) et ($28,74 \pm 6,30$ contre $29,42 \pm 6,20$, $p < 0,0001$) respectivement. Seuls 28 (29,57%) ont pris du poids, 65 (66,3%) ont maintenu un poids stable tandis que 5 (5,1%) ont perdu du poids. À l'analyse univariée, l'âge plus avancé, la cohabitation avec un partenaire, la présence de comorbidité, l'année de la dernière chimiothérapie de moins d'un an et l'utilisation de thérapie hormonale étaient associées à une prise de poids. L'analyse multivariée a révélé que la présence de comorbidités, les patientes ayant reçu la dernière chimiothérapie moins d'un an avant le recrutement et la thérapie hormonale étaient indépendamment associées à une prise de poids.

CONCLUSION: Environ un quart des survivantes du cancer du sein ont pris du poids. Le poids supplémentaire était associé à un âge plus avancé, à la présence de comorbidités, à la réception de la dernière chimiothérapie moins d'un an auparavant et à l'utilisation d'une thérapie hormonale. Il est donc recommandé de surveiller régulièrement le poids des survivantes du cancer lors des visites de suivi. Cela permettrait d'identifier les changements de poids précocement et de mettre en place des interventions appropriées pour prévenir une prise de poids excessive et ses conséquences néfastes sur la santé des survivantes du cancer.

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MOTS CLÉS: Changements de poids, Survivantes du cancer du sein, Corrélations

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