Panel: Return to Cancer Screenings Post COVID Breast Cancer

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Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Philip Lammers, MD, MSCI, has the following financial relationships to disclose:

Consultant - AstraZeneca, Daiichi Sankyo, Pfizer, Puma, Sanofi, and Tempusi

COVID-19 Impact on Breast Cancer Screening and Breast Cancer Outcomes

Impact on Breast Cancer Outcomes

- Multifactorial
 - Screening disruption
 - Delays in diagnosis
 - Overall Fear/Mistrust in Healthcare System
 - Pandemic change in protocols
 - Testing/positive cases cause delays in biopsies, surgeries
 - Staffing shortages due to protocols and nursing shortages/shifts

Breast Cancer screening disruption

- About 285,000 screening visits missed between 3/2020 6/2020
 - Sprague et al. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2021
- Created disparities:
 - Fewer diagnoses of Hispanic women (↓53%) and Asian women (↓ 43%) with smaller impact on African-American women (↓ 27%) compared to non-Hispanic white women (↓ 17%)
 - Lowry, et al. Radiology. 2021
- Estimates of ~2,500 excess in future breast cancer deaths from 2020-2030 related to 6 month decrease in screening in 2020
 - Alagoz et al. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2021

Baptist Memorial Hospital System experience

- Screening mammograms down in 2020
- Now dealing with increased demand in 2022
- Delays to first treatment in 2020 compared to 2019
- Began protocols to triage surgical cases
 - Pre-cancer and prophylactic cases pushed back (DCIS, ADH, prophylactic mastectomy, etc)
 - Stronger consideration to neoadjuvant systemic therapy for TNBC and HER2 positive cases
- Treated many more ER+ patients with neoadjuvant endocrine therapy

Breast Care Challenges/Opportunities

- Clinical Questions
 - Are genomic assays affected by preoperative endocrine therapy?
 - Opportunity to study real-world data
 - Will data on outcomes of patients treated with endocrine therapy eventually influence surgical management protocols for patients with high-risk non-cancer diagnoses?
- Process Issues
 - Are there opportunities to overcome staffing shortages with less invasive screening tests? Or by utilizing artificial intelligence or EMR functionality?

Overall, COVID has reinforced/highlighted the need for Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Care!