

Sonologic, hysteroscopic, and histopathologic endometrial findings in breast cancer patients with tamoxifen use in a tertiary hospital from 2010-2015

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Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the Philippines. Tamoxifen is among the important treatment regimens for patients with breast cancer. However, tamoxifen has estrogen-like effects in the uterus and has been reported to result in endometrial cancers. Despite the risk for development of endometrial cancer, the benefits of tamoxifen for breast cancer treatment greatly outweigh any potential endometrial abnormalities that may occur. Tamoxifen-treated women have an increased frequency of endometrial neoplasia and premalignant conditions such as atypical hyperplasia, warranting development of adequate methods for diagnosing endometrial complications resulting from tamoxifen, increasing the interest in screening this population for endometrial abnormalities.

All patients diagnosed with breast cancer who used tamoxifen and underwent hysteroscopy, seen and admitted in the Philippine General Hospital from 2010-2015 were included in the study. Out-patient department consultation charts and in-patient charts were retrieved from the Medical Records Department. Sonologic and histopathologic results were collected.

Patients' data retrieved from the charts were encoded in IBMSPSS ver 21 software for processing. Categorical variables were presented in frequency and percentages while mean and absolute ranges were utilized as indicators of continuous or quantitative profiles. Furthermore, to test the agreement among hysteroscopic and sonologic findings with histopathologic results in breast cancer patients with tamoxifen use, Kappa Agreement Test method was used wherein a Kappa Index of 0.61 and above are considered good to excellent agreement.

The breast cancer patients with tamoxifen use who underwent sonology and hysteroscopy from 2010-2015 in a tertiary hospital are mostly greater than 50 years of age, overweight, with no comorbid conditions, with 2 or more pregnancies. The most common presentation is vaginal spotting, with onset of symptoms ranging from 7 months to 16 years from the start of tamoxifen use. Endometrial polyps are the most common findings on ultrasonology and hysteroscopy, with congruence with histopathologic results.

Keywords : Ultrasound, hysteroscopy, histopathology, endometrium, breast cancer, tamoxifen

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