

Locally Advanced Breast Cancer

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Breast cancer presents an enormous public health problem. Locally advanced breast cancer (LABC) encompasses a heterogeneous collection of breast neoplasia with widely different clinical and biological characteristics (Figure 1). LABC is a significant problem and a common breast cancer presentation worldwide.



Figure 1: A 50-year-old lady with left locally advanced breast cancer.

Late presentations result in advanced stages and curative treatment cannot be achieved resulting in increased mortality and morbidity and poor survival.

In developing countries, many patients fail to attend follow-up clinic and the morbidity and mortality cannot be assessed accurately.

Sub-optimum delivery of health care can contribute to late diagnosis and poor survival. Awareness in the population needs to be promoted.

Multi-disciplinary care should be delivered as appropriate. Depending on the resources available, the prevention, early detection, effective treatment, proper palliation and supportive care must be given.

To reduce the incidence of LABC and to catch the disease in early stage is of utmost importance to acquire good prognosis and to reduce burden on health care system.

Appropriate screening programme is needed to detect asymptomatic stage and health education programme is required so that people will seek medical advice in early stage of disease.