

## Impact of Participation in Randomized Clinical Trials on Survival of Women with Early-Stage Breast Cancer - An Analysis of 7985 Patients.

**Sub-category:**

Breast Cancer

**Category:**

Breast Cancer

**Meeting:**

2000 ASCO Annual Meeting

**Abstract No:**

287

**Citation:**

Proc Am Soc Clin Oncol 19: 2000 (abstr 287)

**Author(s):**

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**Abstract:**

It is generally accepted that validation of treatment standards can only originate in controlled trials. It can be viewed at in the context of patients sometimes not feeling comfortable with the ideas of randomization, assignment and lifelong follow-up. We have analyzed a large cohort of stage I and II breast cancer patients with emphasis on participation in clinical trials. 7,985 patients were investigated, 5,532 of whom were randomized to 9 randomized clinical trials of the ABC-SG between 1980 and 1999. 2,453 patients were not randomized for reasons and were treated according to treatment standards valid at the time. Descriptive, univariate and multivariate survival analyses were performed. Median observation time was 75 months (12 to 241). Survival analyses showed that the two patient cohorts were in general comparable. There were no severe imbalances in known risk factors or treatment. Overall, 1,460 patients had died at the time of the analysis (18.3%). Survival was significantly different between patients participating in clinical trials and patients not doing so (5-yr OS: 69% vs. 64%,  $p < 0.00001$ ; calculated median survival time: 187.5 vs. 152.8 months). For 10-yr OS (1769 events, 22.2%), results were similar (5yr-RFS: 74% vs. 70%, 10yr-RFS: 58% vs. 55%,  $p = 0.00001$ ). In a multivariate model, participation in randomized trials independently reduced the odds for dying from the disease (odds ratio: 0.553-0.723,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Interaction analysis revealed that the survival difference was more pronounced in different tumor stages, and most pronounced in postmenopausal women. From this data, we conclude that participation in prospective clinical trials improves patient survival irrespective of treatment actually received. Possible assurance mechanisms within the framework of clinical trials, early relapse detection, and effective follow-up may be reasons for this result. Patients with early stage breast cancer do not only contribute to general scientific progress by participating in randomized trials but also benefit individually from their participation.

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3. Everolimus in combination with exemestane in the treatment of postmenopausal women with estrogen receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer who are refractory to letrozole or anastrozole: Preliminary results of the BOLERO-2 trial.

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Session: Breast Cancer - HER2/ER (Poster Discussion Session)

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3. Mature results from ABCSG-12: Adjuvant ovarian suppression combined with tamoxifen or anastrozole, alone or in combination with zoledronic acid, in premenopausal women with endocrine-responsive early breast cancer.

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