

Update in painful breast conditions

Essay
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الحديث في أمراض الثدى المصحوبة بالألام

رسالة توطئة للحصول على درجة الماجستير في الجراحة العامة مقدمة من

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Fibroadenoma with homogeneous fibrous stroma.

List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
ACR	American College of Radiology.
ACS	American Cancer Society.
AMA	American Medical Association.
BRCA	Breast cancer antigen.
BSE	Breast self examination.
CA	Cancer Antigen.
CAD	Computer aided detection.
CEA	Carcino Embryonic Antigen.
CLND	Completion lymph node dissection.
CMF	Cyclophosphamide, methotrexate,
	flurouracil.
CNB	Core needle biopsy.
СТ	Computed tomography.
DCE	Dynamic contrast-enhanced
DCIS	Ductal carcinoma in situ.
DIEP	Deep inf. epigastric perforator flap.
FFDM	Full-field digital mammography.
FNA	Fine needle aspiration.
GLA	Gamma-linolenic acid.
Her ^۲	Human epithelial receptors-7.
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy.

IBC	Inflammatory breast cancer.
LABC	Locally advanced breast cancer.
LCIS	Lobular carcinoma in situ.
MRI	Magentic resonance imaging.
MRM	Magnetic resonance mammography.
NAC	Nipple areolar complex.
PET	Positron emission tomography.
SLN	Sentinel lymph node biopsy.
SSRI	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.
TRAM	Transverse rectus abd. myocutaneous
	flap.
U/S	Ultrasonography.

introduction:

Breast pain (mastalgia) is the most common breast related complaint among women. Nearly 70% of women experience breast pain at some time in their lives. Breast pain is cyclic in 70% of cases and non cyclic in 25%. Cyclic breast pain is clearly related to the menstrual cycle. It's described as heaviness or dull aching pain, often accompanied by breast swelling or lumpiness, usually affects both breasts particularly the upper outer portions and can radiate to the underarm. It intensifies during the two weeks before menstruation then eases up afterward. It usually affects premenopausal & perimenopausal women. Non cyclic breast pain is unrelated to the menstrual cycle. It's described as tightness, burning or soreness. It may be constant or intermittent, usually affects one breast in a localized area but may spread more diffusely across the breast. It usually affects postmenopausal women. (1)

The severity of breast pain varies from woman to woman & approximately 15% of women require treatment. It's known that pain means something is wrong and women often jump to the conclusion that breast pain may be cancer. (2)

At most times breast pain signals a non cancerous (benign) breast condition and rarely signifies breast cancer. Conditions associated with breast pain include: mastitis, bacterial infection, breast abscess, pregnancy, radiating pain from chest wall or muscles or heart or joints, menstruation and pre-menstrual syndrome, hormonal imbalances, medication including (oral contraceptive pills, hormone replacement therapy & anti depressants), soft tissue damage from trauma, fat necrosis, trauma or previous breast surgery, engorged breasts from initial milk let-down following childbirth, protracted breast feeding, benign breast cysts, breast tumours, eczema of nipple & paget's disease of the nipple. (3)

For diagnosis of breast case a process called: triple assessment is used. There are 3 steps in triple assessment. The 1 st step is examination: a doctor or nurse asks about medical history and examines breast. The 2 nd step is imaging: pictures of the inside of breast are created using ultrasound or mammography. The 3 rd step is biopsy: a sample of breast tissue or cells is removed and sent to a laboratory for testing to determine whether the cells are cancerous or not. (4)

Management of breast pain includes: life style and home remedies such as: using hot or cold compression, wearing a bra with extra support or a firm support bra fitted by a professional, wearing a sports bra during exercise and while sleeping (when breasts are more sensitive), decreasing fat and caffeine in diet.Relaxation therapy can help control the high levels of anxiety associated with severe breast pain.

Dietary supplements, Vitamin (E) and prim rose oil may lessen breast pain symptoms and some doctors recommend vit E and primrose oil capsules. (5)

Management also includes elimination of the underlying cause or aggravating factor through medical and surgical treatment. Medical treatment is achieved by: analgesics (ibuprofen or acetaminophen), antibiotics (for infections), some medication such as Danazol or Tamoxifen & reduction or stopping the dose of menopausal hormone therapy. **(6)**

Surgical treatment is indicated in painful breast conditions when a mass is found. Surgery is performed in cases of breast abscess drainage, large fibroadenoma, some cases of duct ectasia, painful breast tumors (most painful tumors do not usually indicate breast cancer) & inflammatory breast cancer (causes stabbing pains in the breast). (7)



Aim of the work:

The aim of this study is to review the recent updates in painful breast conditions as regard causes, new tools in diagnosis and management.

Development of the Breasts:

The breast develops as an invagination of the chest wall ectoderm, which forms a series of branching ducts. The ectoderm and the underlying mesenchyme of dermis are responsible for the genesis of the male and female breast. The ectoderm is responsible for the formation of the ducts and alveoli, and the mesenchyme is responsible for the connective tissue and its vessels. (8)

The depressed ectodermal thickening forms the nipple. At the 5th month, the areola is recognized as a circular pigmented area of skin around the future nipple. (table 1). Shortly before birth, this site of invagination everts to form the nipple. (9)

In the ventral area of the body, the milk line (ridge) develops. (Figure 1). Usually, it extends from the axilla to the inguinal area. The pectoral part of the milk ridge produces the right and left mammary primordia. The proximal and distal part of the extrapectoral ridge disappears. (10)

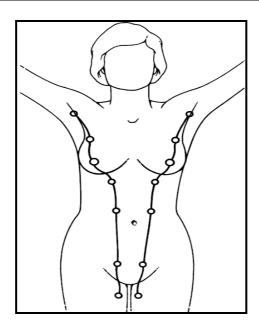


Figure (2): The milk line. Mammary glands usually develop in humans from the pectoral portion of the line. Supernumerary mammary structures may develop from other positions along the line. **(10)**

The ectodermal thickening of the mammary primordium grows into the dermis. This produces 16–24 solid cords of ectodermal cells growing within the underlying mesoderm (dermis) (Figure 2). Later, these buds will become canalized and form the lactiferous ducts and alveoli. The epidermal surface of the future nipple is at first a shallow depression but near term it becomes everted and ready to accept the lactiferous ducts.(11)