

**Correlation of Tumor Infiltrating CD4+ and
CD8+ Lymphocytes and Response to
Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy in Locally
Advanced Breast Cancer**

Thesis

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in Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine*

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قالوا

سببنا انك لا تعلم لنا
إلا ما علمتنا إنك أنت
العليم العظيم

صدق الله العظيم

سورة البقرة الآية: ٣٢

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To:

My beloved Dad

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List of Contents

Title	Page No.
List of Abbreviations	i
List of Tables	vi
<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>vii</i>
Introduction	1
Aim of the Study	4
Review of Literature	
▪ Epidemiology and Risk Factors	5
▪ Breast Cancer is a Heterogeneous Disease	15
▪ Locally Advanced Breast Cancer	44
▪ Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes in Breast Cancer	74
Patients and Methods	99
Results	104
Discussion	118
Summary and Conclusion	127
Recommendations	129
References	130
Arabic Summary	

List of Abbreviations

Abb.	Full term
5-FU	<i>5-fluorouracil</i>
A	<i>Doxorubicin</i>
AD	<i>Androgen receptor</i>
ADCC	<i>Antibody Dependent Cell mediated Cytotoxicity</i>
AI	<i>Aromatase Inhibitors</i>
AJCC	<i>American Joint Committee on Cancer</i>
ASCO	<i>American Society of Clinical Oncology</i>
AUC	<i>Area Under the Curve</i>
BC	<i>Breast Cancer</i>
BCI	<i>Breast Cancer Index</i>
BCT	<i>Breast Conservative Treatment</i>
BL1	<i>Basal-Like 1</i>
BL2	<i>Basal-Like 2</i>
BLBC	<i>Basal-Like Breast Cancer</i>
BLIA	<i>Basal-Like Immunoactivated</i>
BLIS	<i>Basal-Like Immunosuppressed</i>
C	<i>Cyclophosphamid</i>
CAP	<i>College of American Pathologists</i>
CBC	<i>Complete blood picture</i>
CDC	<i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i>
CESM	<i>Contrast-Enhanced Spectral Mammography</i>
CISH	<i>Chromogenic in situ hybridization</i>
CRR	<i>Clinical Response Rate</i>
CT	<i>Computerized tomography</i>
CTL	<i>Cytotoxic T lymphocytes</i>
CTLA	<i>Cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein</i>
D	<i>Docetaxel</i>
DBT	<i>Digital Breast Tomosynthesis</i>
DCIS	<i>Ductal Carcinoma Insitu</i>

List of Abbreviations (cont...)

Abb.	Full term
DFS	<i>Disease free survival</i>
dMFS	<i>Distant metastasis-free survival</i>
E	<i>Epirubicin</i>
EFPE	<i>Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded</i>
EFS	<i>Event-Free Survival</i>
EGFR	<i>Epidermal growth factor receptor</i>
EORTC	<i>European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer</i>
EPclin	<i>EndoPredict</i>
ER	<i>Estrogen Receptors</i>
FAS-L	<i>Fas ligand</i>
FDA	<i>Food and Drug Administration</i>
FDG-PET/CT	<i>Fluoro-D-glucose positron emission Tomography / Computerized tomography</i>
FGFR-2	<i>Fibroblast growth factor receptors-2</i>
FISH	<i>Fluorescence in situ hybridization</i>
GEP	<i>Gene Expression Profiling</i>
GGI	<i>The Genomic Grade Index</i>
GR	<i>Glucocorticoid Receptor</i>
HER-2	<i>Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor- 2</i>
HMGB1	<i>High mobility-group box 1</i>
HR	<i>Hazard ratio</i>
HR	<i>Hormone Receptor</i>
IBC	<i>Invasive Breast Cancer</i>
IFN	<i>Interferon</i>
IFN-γ	<i>Interferon Gamma</i>
IHC	<i>Immunohistochemistry</i>
IL	<i>Interleukin</i>
IM	<i>Immunomodulatory</i>
IQR	<i>Inter quartile range</i>

List of Abbreviations (cont...)

Abb.	Full term
KFT	<i>Kidney function test</i>
LABC	<i>Locally Advanced Breast Cancer</i>
LAR	<i>luminal Androgen Receptor</i>
LCIS	<i>Lobular Carcinoma Insitu</i>
LFT	<i>Liver function test</i>
LPBC	<i>Lymphocyte Predominant Breast Cancer</i>
LRR	<i>Local Recurrence Rate</i>
M	<i>Mesenchymal</i>
M	<i>Methotrexate</i>
M1	<i>Metastasis</i>
MAPK	<i>Mitogen Activated Protein kinase</i>
MC	<i>Molecular Classification</i>
MDSC	<i>Myeloid-derived suppressor cells</i>
MFS	<i>Metastases-free survival</i>
MG	<i>Mammography</i>
MHC	<i>Histocompatibility Complex</i>
MNPI	<i>Modified scores from Nottingham Prognostic Index</i>
MRI	<i>Magnetic Resonance Imaging</i>
MSBR	<i>Modified Scarff Bloom Richardson grade</i>
mTOR	<i>Mammalian target of rapamycin</i>
N	<i>Lymph-node</i>
NA	<i>Not applicable</i>
NAC	<i>Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy</i>
NET	<i>Neoadjuvant Endocrine Therapy</i>
NF-κB	<i>Nuclear Factor Kappa B</i>
NK	<i>Natural Killer</i>
NR	<i>Not Reported</i>
NSABP	<i>National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project</i>

List of Abbreviations (cont...)

Abb.	Full term
OS	<i>Overall survival</i>
P	<i>Pertuzumab</i>
PAM 50	<i>Prediction Analysis of Microarrays 50</i>
pCR	<i>Pathological Complete Responses</i>
PD-1	<i>Programmed cell death-1</i>
PDL-1	<i>Programmed cell death ligand-1</i>
PDL-2	<i>Programmed cell death ligand-1</i>
PFS	<i>Progression free survival</i>
PI3K	<i>Phosphoinositide 3- kinase</i>
PIK3CA	<i>Phosphatidylinositol-4,5-Bisphosphate 3-kinase catalytic subunit alpha</i>
PgR	<i>Progesterone Receptors</i>
PTEN	<i>Phosphatase and tensin enzyme</i>
QNBC	<i>Quadruple Negative Breast Cancer</i>
RCB	<i>Residual Cancer Burden</i>
RECIST	<i>Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors</i>
RFS	<i>Relapse-free survival</i>
ROR	<i>Risk-of-Recurrence</i>
RS	<i>Recurrence Score</i>
RTK	<i>Receptor tyrosine kinases</i>
SD	<i>Stable disease</i>
SEER	<i>Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results program</i>
T	<i>Trastuzumab</i>
TAA	<i>Tumor-Associated Antigens</i>
T-DM1	<i>Trastuzumab Emtansine</i>
TGF-β	<i>Transforming growth factor</i>
Th-1	<i>T helper cell -1</i>
TIL	<i>Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes</i>

List of Abbreviations (cont...)

Abb.	Full term
<i>TLR</i>	<i>Toll-Like Receptor</i>
<i>TNBC</i>	<i>Triple Negative Breast Cancer</i>
<i>TNF</i>	<i>Tumor Necrosis Factor</i>
<i>Tregs</i>	<i>Regulatory T cells</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>Ultrasound</i>
<i>V</i>	<i>Vincristine</i>
<i>Vs.</i>	<i>Versus</i>
<i>X</i>	<i>Capecitabine</i>

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page No.
Table (1):	Estimated New Female Breast Cancer Cases and Deaths by Age.....	7
Table (2):	Age-specific Probability of Developing Invasive Breast Cancer for US Women.....	7
Table (3):	Commercially available prognostic multi-gene signatures for breast cancer patients.....	32
Table (4):	Trials comparing the same chemotherapeutic regimen preoperative and postoperative	53
Table (5):	Clinical trials of neoadjuvant CT with trastuzumab for HER2-positive BC.....	56
Table (6):	Randomized trials comparing different endocrine agents in the neoadjuvant setting.....	62
Table (7):	Comparison of pathologic response evaluation system for breast cancer after neoadjuvant therapy.....	73
Table (8):	Neoadjuvant trials that have assessed tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes	87
Table (9):	Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) in residual disease post NAC.....	88
Table (10):	Tumor characteristics.....	105
Table (11):	CD4 and CD8 Ranges	108
Table (12):	TIL range at diagnosis in both estrogen receptors positive and negative	108
Table (13):	Response to cheotherapy.....	110
Table (14):	Tumor residual and correlation with CD4.....	111
Table (15):	By the end of the study 38 patients were still alive with 7 deaths in low CD4 group vs zero deaths in high CD4 group.....	112
Table (16):	Tumor residual in correlation to CD8.....	112
Table (17):	Relationship between TILs and clinic-pathological characteristics.....	116

List of Figures

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (1):	Proportions of familial risk of breast cancer explained by hereditary variants.....	14
Figure (2):	Genes evaluated by multigene assays to calculate a recurrence risk score.....	30
Figure (3):	Overlap of Triple-Negative, Basal-like, and BRCA1-Mutant Breast Cancers and histologic types.....	41
Figure (4):	Assessment response to NEC by CESM and MRI	66
Figure (5):	Contrast-enhanced, T1-weighted MR images for breast cancer cases.....	68
Figure (6):	Morphology, definitions, biological and diagnostic relevance of different immune infiltrates seen in breast cancer.....	81
Figure (7):	Prognostic value of stromal tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (sTILs) in TNBC	85
Figure (8):	Using the TIL infiltrate and response to frontline treatments to guide patient	89
Figure (9):	Immune checkpoint blockade	93
Figure (10):	IQR for presence of CD4 in all cohort	109
Figure (11):	IQR for presence of CD8 in all cohort	109
Figure (12):	Correlation between pCR and CD4 percentage.....	110
Figure (13):	DFS curve according to high and low CD4.....	111
Figure (14):	DFS curve according to high and low CD8.....	113
Figure (15):	correlation between tumor residual and DFS.....	113
Figure (16):	Correlation between molecular subtypes and CD4.....	114
Figure (17):	Correlation between molecular subtypes and CD8.....	115
Figure (18):	Representative image (high power field) of a breast cancer tissue sample with CD4 and CD8+ TIL immunostaining.....	117

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer is the most common invasive malignancy and the second most common cause of death from cancer in women (*Hiatt and Brody, 2018*).

Over 1.5 million women (25% of all women with cancer) are diagnosed with breast cancer every year throughout the world. In America, it is estimated that 30% of all new cancer cases among women are breast cancer (*Sun et al., 2017*).

Breast cancer has not traditionally been considered as an immunogenic disease; however, a large body of evidence has shown the presence of significant immune cell infiltration in patient tumors (*West et al., 2013*).

Breast cancer is capable of stimulating the immune system. Furthermore, the intensity of tumoral immune response influences the effectiveness of cancer therapy, and is correlated with favorable clinical outcome. Some breast tumors have substantial lymphocytic infiltration, and tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) have been recently proposed as a surrogate marker of adaptive immune response. The interaction of the immune system with tumor cells in breast cancer appears to be associated with triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) and HER2-positive breast cancer, and they are thought to be more immunogenic than luminal A carcinomas (*García-Tejido et al., 2016*).

Several studies have stated that these tumors are infiltrated by a heterogeneous population of immune cells, namely T cells, B cells, natural killer (NK) cells and macrophages. Tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) are of helper (CD4+) and cytotoxic (CD8+) pheno-types, and express activation markers such as CD25 and the transferrin receptor (*Gisterek et al., 2008*).

CD8+ cytotoxic T lymphocytes are the primary effector cell type, because they exhibit cytotoxic activity towards tumor cells expressing tumor-associated antigens (TAAs). Where they induce tumor cell death directly upon recognition of tumor peptides presented in association with major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I molecules on tumor cells (*Melichar et al., 2014*).

CD4+ lymphocytes eliciting its antitumor response through the activation and regulation of many facets of the adaptive immune response as interferon gamma (IFN- γ) production, NK and macrophages activation (*Gu-Trantien et al., 2013*).

Tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) is a prognostic indicator for higher rates of pathological complete responses (pCR) to neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NAC) (*Dieci, et al., 2014*).

Preclinical studies have suggested that cytotoxic agents may partly exert their antitumor activity by inducing immune response against tumor cells (*André et al., 2013*). Denkert et al., were able first to show in a large-scale analysis of 1058 patients' biopsies that TIL+ tumors achieved a pCR rate of 40–42 % following NAC, whereas TIL– tumors achieved a pCR of only 3–7% (*Denkert et al., 2015*).