A Transitional Era of Breast Cancer Care after Sanctions Cessation in Syria: Current Challenges and Future Aspirations

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Introduction

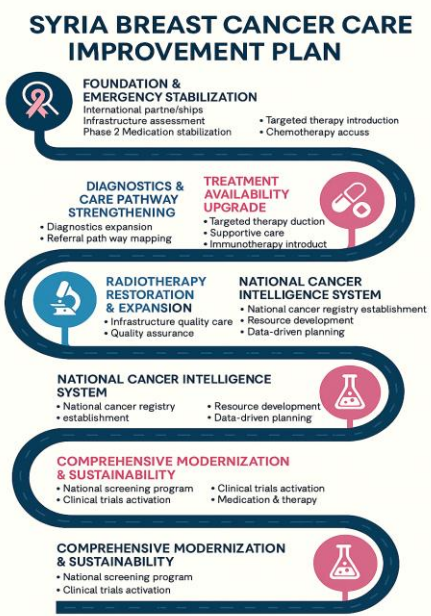
Syria has been through years of armed conflict and prolonged international sanctions. Syria's healthcare system has been severely damaged by this conflict, specifically cancer care. Breast cancer patients in Syria are usually unable to receive the adequate care.

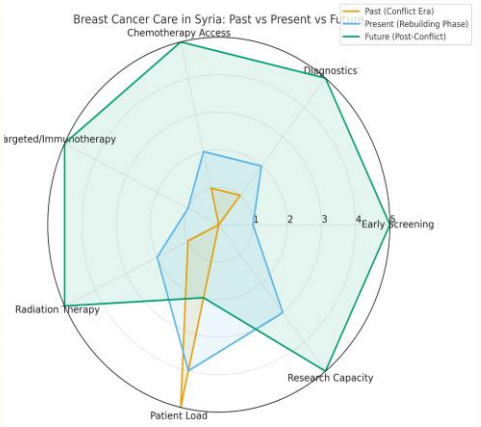
Methodology

This is a cross-sectional observational study that is conducted at Al-Bairuni University Hospital in Syria. It aims evaluate the state of breast cancer care in Syria during the past five years. It focuses on diagnostic methods, treatment access, and healthcare delivery to Breast Cancer patients in Syria. Data is collected by reviewing medical records of all patients diagnosed with breast cancer between 2019 and 2024 at ABUH.

Results

Al-Bairuni University Hospital is the country's primary cancer center. It receives around 50% of all cancer patients in Syria. 12330 patients were diagnosed with breast cancer between 2019 and 2024. A majority of these patients had advanced diseases. Access to immunotherapy and targeted therapy is limited, and chemotherapy agents are usually intermittently available. Radiation therapy is also affected by the shortage of functioning machines and electronic power supply. Breast oncologists encounter high volume of patients daily (~ 200), which compromises care quality. Furthermore, the need for a national cancer registry is limiting epidemiological studies and research on surveillance.





Conclusion

Syria's transition into an era without conflict and international sanctions, raises hopes for a better future for breast cancer patients. Reconstructing the oncology infrastructure in Syria must be a global concern.

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References
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