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survivors

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B.S., Georgia Institute of Technology, 2014

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## Abstract

Association of tumor receptor status and treatment-induced amenorrhea in breast cancer survivors

By Priya Patel

As survival for breast cancer has improved, concerns about the long-term side effects that may result from treatment, including amenorrhea and impaired fertility, have increased. Examining the association between estrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR), and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) status and treatment-induced amenorrhea may provide information clinicians can use when counseling premenopausal breast cancer patients treated with chemotherapy about possible effects of treatment on amenorrhea and fertility. This study included participants from the FUCHSIA Women's Study, which recruited female cancer survivors in Georgia who were diagnosed between the ages of 20-35 and who survived at least 2 years after diagnosis (median = 7 years; interquartile range, 5-11). Data were obtained through interview and medical records abstraction. Eligible women for this study included breast cancer survivors who were treated with chemotherapy. Among the 249 women in the final study population, 60.2% reported experiencing amenorrhea lasting six months or longer during treatment. The frequency of amenorrhea did not vary by ER or PR receptor status, but HER2 positive women were more likely to report amenorrhea than HER2 negative women (67.1% vs. 57.4%). After adjusting for confounders and cancer treatment, a possible intermediate between receptor status and amenorrhea, ER positive women were slightly less likely than ER negative women to report treatment-induced amenorrhea (aOR = 0.74; 95% CI, 0.23, 2.34), while the association between PR status and amenorrhea was null (aOR = 1.11; 95% CI, 0.43, 2.87). HER2 positive women were less likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea than HER2 negative women after adjustment (aOR = 0.55; 95% CI, 0.23, 1.31). Treatment with Herceptin, commonly prescribed to HER2 positive women, was associated with an increased odds of amenorrhea (aOR = 3.92; 95% CI, 1.27-12.12). The value of knowing ER and PR receptor status was unclear. However, knowing HER2 status and whether Herceptin will be prescribed may help clinicians counsel premenopausal breast cancer patients on the potential effects of chemotherapy on amenorrhea and future fertility.

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## Chapter I: Background

### 1. Introduction

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women (aside from non-melanoma skin cancer), affecting 12% of all American women (1). Though it remains the second leading cause of cancer related deaths in women, survival for women diagnosed with breast cancer has improved over time through advanced screening and treatment methods (2). With improvement in survival, however, concerns about potential long-term side effects resulting from treatment have increased. In particular, amenorrhea and infertility are of interest among reproductive age women (3).

Chemotherapy has been associated with amenorrhea following treatment (4). Treatment-induced amenorrhea may include temporary loss of a woman's menstrual period or may indicate early menopause (5). Although a woman experiencing treatment-induced amenorrhea may resume menstruating, temporary amenorrhea may be a marker for subfertility or a shortened reproductive window (6). Not all women undergoing chemotherapy experience treatment-induced amenorrhea. Some factors that have been suggested to predict a woman's susceptibility to treatment-induced amenorrhea include age at diagnosis and type of treatment (7-10). It would be useful to identify additional factors associated with treatment-induced amenorrhea because identifying women at high risk of amenorrhea may help clinicians counsel patients about their future fertility and discuss treatment options.

Breast cancer receptors, including estrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR), and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), which lie on the surface of tumors, promote tumor growth when bound to their respective agents (11). Receptor

status determines in part the cancer treatment options for women diagnosed with breast cancer (12), which in turn affect the probability of experiencing treatment-induced amenorrhea. Thus, receptor status may affect amenorrhea indirectly through treatment, but receptor status may also be associated with treatment-induced amenorrhea even after accounting for treatment. Receptor status has been reported to be associated with factors such as parity, and therefore, it may be related to a woman's underlying fertility (13). Thus, receptor status may be a predictor of treatment-induced amenorrhea if it is a marker for underlying fertility.

Insight into the relation between receptor status and treatment-induced amenorrhea might assist physicians when counseling reproductive age patients interested in learning about the potential effects of their treatment on fertility. Therefore, this study aims to explore a relation between breast cancer receptor status (ER, PR, and HER2) and treatment-induced amenorrhea in reproductive age women diagnosed with breast cancer.

## 2. Descriptive epidemiology

Breast cancer affects 1 out of every 8 women in the United States. It is the leading cancer diagnosis in women aside from non-melanoma skin cancer, making up an estimated 12% of all new cancer cases in women (1). The mean age at diagnosis is 61 years, with the largest age group, 55-64 years, making up 25.6% of all women diagnosed (14). Although less common among younger women, approximately a quarter of women diagnosed with breast cancer are considered to be of reproductive age.

Survival for breast cancer has improved over time since 1975 (2). The five-year survival for all women diagnosed with breast cancer between the years 2005-2011 was

89.4% (14). Survival for reproductive age women is slightly lower, however, with approximately 85% survival (1, 15). Although there continues to be a slight increase in the number of incident cases, there is also a slow decline in mortality leading to more affected individuals living longer after diagnosis with cancer. This increase in survival can be attributed to better screening procedures and treatment techniques (16). Also, with more individuals surviving and living longer after being diagnosed with breast cancer, there is increased attention to the long-term effects of treatment (3). Among reproductive-aged women, the ability to become pregnant after cancer is of concern because treatment is suggested to affect ovarian function (6). Understanding factors that can influence treatment-induced amenorrhea are important to identify. These factors can play a key role in assisting with proper counseling for young women newly diagnosed with breast cancer.

### 3. Risk factors for breast cancer

The most common risk factors for breast cancer include sex, age, family history, and race. Breast cancer is more common in women than men. Additionally, breast cancer is more prevalent among women above the age 55 (1). There are key differences in risk factors for breast cancer among premenopausal versus postmenopausal women. While breast cancer is more common in white women versus black women above the age of 45, younger black women have a higher incidence of invasive breast cancer as well as a higher mortality compared to younger white women (1). Breast cancer in younger women is also more likely to be hereditary than in older women (17). These hereditary risks include mutations in either or both the BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene. The number of



first-degree relatives diagnosed with BRCA1 and/or BRCA2-related breast cancer may additionally increase a woman's risk of developing breast cancer in her lifetime (18). Other biologic factors related to breast cancer in premenopausal women include exposure to high doses of radiation at an early age, through medical treatment or radon in the home, dense breast tissue, and other breast irregularities including lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS), ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), atypical ductal hyperplasia, and atypical lobular hyperplasia (19). Behavioral factors suggested to increase risk of breast cancer include hormonal contraceptive use and drinking alcohol (20, 21). Alcohol is believed to change the way a woman's body metabolizes estrogen and in turn, cause estrogen levels to rise. With higher estrogen levels, there may be an increased breast cancer risk (21). Hormonal contraceptives can overstimulate cells in the breast, which may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer (22). Physical activity, on the other hand, may decrease a woman's risk for breast cancer (23). However, the amount of physical activity required to reduce the risk of breast cancer is not established.

#### 4. Receptor status

At diagnosis, breast cancer can be distinguished by multiple subtypes. These subtypes are commonly classified by evaluated biomarkers of breast cancer: ER, PR, and HER2 (12). These receptors are indicated to be either positive or negative based on their presence or absence on breast cancer cells. ER, PR, and HER2 receptors on the surface of cancer cells attach to their respective hormones and promote breast cancer cell growth (11). Four subtypes into which breast cancer can be further categorized include luminal A (ER+ or PR+, and HER2-), luminal B (ER+ or PR+ and HER2+), HER2-enriched (ER-

, PR-, and HER+), or triple-negative (ER-, PR-, HER2-). Luminal A is the most prevalent subtype, accounting for up to 70% of all breast cancers. The prevalence of luminal B and triple-negative cancers range from 10-20%. The HER-2 enriched subtype is the least prevalent, with a range of 5-15% of all breast cancers (24).

The prevalence of the breast cancer subtypes varies across racial/ethnic groups. A few studies indicate that black women, compared to white women, are more commonly diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancers, which have the worst prognosis (25-29). A study of 476 women (116 black and 360 white women) reported that among the women ages 20-34 diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, 56% were black and 42% were white (30). Thus, black women were overrepresented among women diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer compared with a distribution of black women in this age range in the general population. Another study of 1,424 women also reported similar results, with 54% of triple-negative cancers among black women (31). Some studies also suggest that triple-negative breast cancers are more common in Hispanic women versus white women (29, 32). A study examining breast cancer subtypes among 260,174 women reported that Hispanic women (versus white women) have a 17% higher incidence of triple-negative cancer (29). This study also found that the association between race and triple-negative cancer was stronger among premenopausal women.

## 5. Treatment

After breast cancer diagnosis, women may be treated with surgery (mastectomy or lumpectomy), radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or hormone therapy. The type of treatment recommended by a woman's physician depends on the stage of breast cancer

the patient is diagnosed with (33). Women diagnosed with early stage cancers, stages zero (DCIS) and one, typically undergo surgery with or without radiation. Women with breast cancer stages two and up, as well as some women with stage one cancer, receive chemotherapy. Chemotherapy can be categorized as either adjuvant, where it occurs after surgery, or neoadjuvant, where it occurs prior to surgery (1). Adjuvant therapy is intended to clear the cancer remaining after surgery and prevent possible reoccurrence. Neoadjuvant therapy is prescribed to shrink the cancer before undergoing surgery. Chemotherapy is administered in cycles that vary in length based on the responsiveness of the cancer and side effects of the treatment (33).

Chemotherapy drugs can be categorized into several groups based on various factors including the way in which they work and their chemical structure (34). Some common drug groups are alkylating agents, which include cyclophosphamide, the drug most commonly prescribed to treat breast cancer; anthracyclines, including doxorubicin and epirubicin; antimetabolites, including 5-fluorouracil and methotrexate; and mitotic inhibitors, including taxanes such as paclitaxel and docetaxel (16). These drugs are most often administered in combination, forming a chemotherapy regimen. Regimens prove more effective in combating cancer versus singular drugs. The most common chemotherapy regimen for breast cancer is doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide (AC), which can either be administered alone or followed by paclitaxel or docetaxel. Other common regimens are cyclophosphamide and docetaxel (TC); cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, and 5-fluorouracil (CMF); and docetaxel, carboplatin, and trastuzumab (TCH) (35).

Receptor status affects the treatment that is recommended to the breast cancer patient. Research shows that hormone receptor positive (ER and PR positive) cancers respond better to chemotherapy than hormone receptor negative cancers. Further, trastuzumab (Herceptin) improves survival of women diagnosed with HER2 positive breast cancer (36). Herceptin is believed to attach to HER2 receptors and stop them from signaling tumor cells to grow. It can be used in conjunction with a chemotherapy regimen, such as the AC or TCH regimen, or given as an adjuvant treatment after chemotherapy.

Tamoxifen (Nolvadex) is a selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM), a form of hormone replacement therapy, also known to yield better treatment and prevent recurrence of breast cancer among those with ER or PR positive breast cancers (37). Tamoxifen binds to the ER and PR receptors on cancer cells, effectively blocking estrogen from being able to bind to the receptors and signal it to grow. It is usually recommended to be taken for five years after treatment, but may be prescribed concurrently.

## 6. Side effects of treatment

While treatments have become more effective and have improved survival over time, they may lead to long-term side effects including infertility and amenorrhea (6). Chemotherapy, in particular, has been reported to have a strong effect on fertility and ovarian reserve and to cause amenorrhea (4, 38). Pelvic radiation also affects fertility, but is not common in breast cancer patients (39). Chemotherapy damages the follicles which lie in the ovaries. These follicles, which release luteinizing hormone and follicle

stimulating hormone, then affect the hormone balance in the body. The change in hormone levels may subsequently result in treatment-induced amenorrhea (6).

Treatment-induced amenorrhea, which is the loss of a woman's menstrual period for at least 6 consecutive months, can be either temporary or permanent (5). Permanent amenorrhea results in early menopause. Even when temporary, treatment-induced amenorrhea may be a marker of loss of childbearing capacity, through subfertility or a shortened reproductive window (7, 40).

Treatment-induced amenorrhea may occur in reproductive age women with early or late stage breast cancer who undergo chemotherapy (40). Though treatment-induced amenorrhea is not a desired side effect because of its association with impaired fertility, it may indicate that the chemotherapy treatment is effective (41, 42). A meta-analysis of 13 studies on premenopausal treatment-induced amenorrhea reported that amenorrhea was associated with positive prognoses among women with ER-positive breast cancers (42).

Although there is a strong association between chemotherapy and amenorrhea, not all breast cancer patients who undergo chemotherapy will experience treatment-induced amenorrhea. Factors that have been suggested to predict susceptibility to treatment-induced amenorrhea include age, chemotherapy agents, and cumulative dose of chemotherapy (7-10, 43, 44). A retrospective study of 191 women reported that treatment-induced amenorrhea was higher in women 40 and older versus those younger than 40 years (82% to 55%) (45). While more common in older women, treatment-induced amenorrhea is still of concern among women of younger reproductive ages because they are less likely to have achieved their desired family size. In a cohort of 1,127 women, researchers reported that 61% of women under the age of 40 versus 95%

of women 40 and older underwent treatment-induced amenorrhea (40). Additionally, Jacobsen et al. found that among 356 women with breast cancer between the ages of 20-35, half of the women reported experiencing amenorrhea (5).

The drugs included in a woman's treatment regimen may predict her susceptibility to experiencing treatment-induced amenorrhea. Cyclophosphamide, which is an alkylating agent and the most common chemotherapy prescribed for breast cancer is known to be associated with treatment-induced amenorrhea, and believed to be gonadotoxic (6, 7, 47). In one study, among 77 women, with the cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin regimen, 44% underwent treatment-induced amenorrhea (7). Aside from the agents alone, the dose of chemotherapy may further increase susceptibility to treatment-induced amenorrhea. In a study of 552 patients, cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, and fluorouracil (CMF) regimen was reported to result in amenorrhea in 10% of women after one dose, 33% after 6 months, and 61% after 12 months (40).

The addition of a taxane, such as paclitaxel or docetaxel, to a chemotherapy regimen is suggested to increase a woman's sensitivity to treatment-induced amenorrhea. However, studies have reported inconclusive results (48-50). A study of 122 women suggested that regimens including taxanes resulted in higher treatment-induced amenorrhea rates within the first year versus non-taxane based regimens (51). However, another study reported that among 111 premenopausal women, those who received taxanes (44%) resumed their menstrual cycles more often than those who had been treated with AC alone (33%) (52).

Although the association between chemotherapy and amenorrhea is well established, no studies have assessed the relation between breast cancer receptor status

and amenorrhea. Amenorrhea may result from hormone imbalance due to damage to the ovaries. ER, PR, and HER2 receptor statuses have also been previously associated with hormonally related factors, such as parity and oral contraceptive use (13, 53, 54). Thus, receptor status may be a marker for an unidentified hormonal factor that affects both receptor status and amenorrhea. However, receptor status and amenorrhea are also both related to treatment. Thus, it is of interest to assess whether receptor status is associated with amenorrhea after accounting for treatment.

## 7. Summary

Generally, reproductive age breast cancer survivors are living longer, but the treatments used to prolong survival, including chemotherapy, can result in long-term side effects (3). These effects are of concern for those who are interested in maintaining their fertility after cancer treatment. Studies have shown that chemotherapy can cause temporary or permanent amenorrhea (6, 49). Many factors may cause a woman to be more susceptible to treatment-induced amenorrhea including age and type of chemotherapy (7-10, 43). It is, however, unknown whether treatment-induced amenorrhea differs by hormone receptor status. Because receptor status is associated with hormonal factors such as parity (10), there may be an association with treatment-induced amenorrhea, which could be the result of underlying differences in susceptibility as well as differences in treatment.

This study aims to evaluate the relation between ER, PR, and HER2 receptor status and treatment-induced amenorrhea among reproductive age women diagnosed with breast cancer overall and after adjusting for treatment. Assessing this relation may help

to identify women more likely to experience treatment-induced amenorrhea, which could assist physicians in counseling newly diagnosed reproductive age patients on treatment options and potential outcomes.



## Chapter II: Manuscript

### Introduction

Breast cancer affects 1 out of every 8 women, or 12% of all women, in the United States (1). Survival for those diagnosed with breast cancer has improved over time and has led to increased concerns about the long-term side effects that result from treatment (2). Among reproductive aged women, amenorrhea and infertility are potential side effects of particular interest (3). Studying factors associated with these outcomes is important in order to provide women diagnosed with breast cancer with more information about the potential impact of treatment on their fertility.

Chemotherapy has been strongly associated with amenorrhea following treatment (4). Chemotherapy may damage the ovaries by impairing follicles, which affects the hormonal balance in the body, potentially leading to treatment-induced amenorrhea (6). Treatment-induced amenorrhea may be permanent, resulting in early menopause, or temporary, where the woman will resume her menstrual cycles at some point following chemotherapy (5). However, even temporary amenorrhea is of concern because it may be a marker for subfertility or a shortened reproductive window (6). Nevertheless, not all breast cancer patients who undergo chemotherapy experience amenorrhea. Factors that are believed to predict treatment-induced amenorrhea include age at diagnosis and chemotherapy agents (7-10). In particular, the alkylating agent cyclophosphamide, which is the chemotherapy agent most commonly prescribed for breast cancer, is strongly associated with treatment-induced amenorrhea (6, 47).

Identifying other factors that predict those at higher risk of experiencing treatment-induced amenorrhea would provide additional information that physicians

could use when counseling patients about treatment decisions. No studies have assessed the relation between breast cancer receptor status and amenorrhea. Receptor status likely affects amenorrhea in part through treatment because recommended treatments differ by receptor status and different treatments may have varying effects on amenorrhea. After adjusting for treatment, receptor status may continue to be associated with amenorrhea because of underlying hormonal factors that affect both receptor status and amenorrhea. Prior studies have reported that ER, PR, and HER2 status are associated with hormonally related factors, such as parity (12, 53). Thus, receptor status may serve as a proxy marker for underlying hormonal conditions with different risks of amenorrhea.

This study aimed to evaluate the relations between ER, PR, and HER2 status and treatment-induced amenorrhea among reproductive age breast cancer patients treated with chemotherapy. Assessing these relations may help identify women who are more likely to experience treatment-induced amenorrhea, which could assist physicians in counseling newly diagnosed patients of reproductive age on treatment options and potential outcomes.

## **Methods**

### **Study Population**

Data for this study were drawn from the Furthering Understanding of Cancer, Health, and Survivorship in Adult (FUCHSIA) Women's Study, a population-based study of fertility in female survivors of young adult cancers. Eligible cancer survivors, alive at least 2 years after diagnosis, were identified in collaboration with the Georgia Cancer Registry. Women diagnosed with a reportable malignant cancer (55) or DCIS (ductal carcinoma in situ) between 1990-2009, who were aged 20-35 at diagnosis and 22-45 at the time of recruitment were eligible. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Boards of Emory University and the Georgia Department of Health.

This study was restricted to women in the FUCHSIA Women's Study diagnosed with breast cancer and treated with chemotherapy. Women who had a hysterectomy before cancer treatment were excluded. Women with missing data for ER, PR, and HER2 status or amenorrhea were also excluded.

### **Outcome**

The outcome, treatment-induced amenorrhea, was defined based on an in-depth computer assisted telephone interview. Participants were asked if their menstrual periods stopped during the course of cancer treatment. Treatment-induced amenorrhea was defined as not having a menstrual period for six months or longer beginning during cancer treatment.

**Exposure**

Breast cancer receptor status, ER, PR, and HER2, was abstracted from medical records. Receptors were also classified into four breast cancer subtypes: luminal A (ER/PR+, HER2-), luminal B (ER/PR+, HER2+), HER2-enriched (ER-, PR-, HER2+), and triple-negative (ER-, PR-, HER2-).

**Covariates**

Confounders associated with receptor status and treatment-induced amenorrhea were identified based on the literature and hypothesized causal graphs. They included age at diagnosis, age at menarche, body mass index (BMI) at diagnosis, parity, oral contraceptive use, and cancer stage. Age, parity, and oral contraceptive use data were obtained through the interview. BMI and cancer stage (based on American Joint Committee on Cancer [AJCC] categorization) data were collected from medical records.

Cancer treatment was hypothesized to be an intermediate between receptor status and amenorrhea. We assessed whether receptor status was associated with amenorrhea after conditioning on treatment and adjusting for confounders of the receptor-outcome and treatment-outcome relations. Treatments included tamoxifen, Herceptin, and type of chemotherapy class. All treatment info was abstracted from medical records.

Chemotherapy was collapsed into the following classes: alkylating agents, topoisomerase inhibitors, mitotic inhibitors, and antimetabolites.

## **Statistical Analysis**

Preliminary descriptive statistics were calculated, stratified by receptor status (ER, PR, HER2) and treatment-induced amenorrhea status.

Logistic models were fit to estimate the odds ratios (OR) for the association between receptor status and occurrence of treatment-induced amenorrhea. The unadjusted model included only indicator variables for the three cancer receptors (referent=negative status). Next, we fit a model adjusted for confounding. Women with missing BMI at diagnosis, cancer stage, and treatment data were excluded from this analysis. The third model was adjusted for confounding and included cancer treatment variables. We repeated these analyses restricting the population to those with the most common chemotherapy regimen, cyclophosphamide and doxorubicin (AC) with or without a taxane. We also fit these models to estimate the OR for cancer subtypes (luminal A, luminal B, HER2-enriched vs. triple-negative) and treatment-induced amenorrhea. An additional model was fit to estimate the OR for receptor status and amenorrhea adjusted for confounding and treatment among women who did not receive Herceptin.

All statistical analyses were performed using SAS Version 9.4 (SAS Institute).

## **Results**

Of the 1,282 cancer survivors who completed the FUCHSIA Women's Study interview, 415 women had a primary breast cancer or DCIS diagnosis between ages 20-35 (Figure 1). Thirty-three of these women had a hysterectomy prior to treatment for cancer and were excluded. Among the remaining 322 eligible women, 11 were unable to

recall whether they stopped menstruating during the course of their treatment and 5 stopped menstruating, but were unable to estimate for how long. Additionally, 41 women were missing ER, PR, and HER2 status all together and 16 had an unknown status for at least 1 receptor. The final population used for analysis in the study included 249 women.

In the final study population, 22.7% reported never experiencing amenorrhea during treatment, and of those who reported experiencing amenorrhea, 17.3% had not resumed menstruating by the interview (median 7 years after diagnosis, interquartile range [IQR], 5-11). Twenty-two percent stopped menstruation during treatment but resumed menses within 6 months and therefore, were classified as not having amenorrhea. Overall, 60.2% of the women were classified as amenorrheic (Table 1).

The median age at diagnosis was 32 (IQR, 30-34 years). The probability of reporting amenorrhea was similar across age at diagnosis (age 20-29: 62.1%; age 30-35: 59.8%). White women (54.8%) were less likely than black women (65.0%) or women of other races (78.3%) to report treatment-induced amenorrhea. White women were also more likely to be ER (63%) and PR (54.1%) positive (vs. ER and PR negative) than black women (ER positive: 47.5%, PR positive: 38.8%) and women of other races (ER positive: 34.8%, PR positive: 30.4%; Supplemental Table 1). All races were less likely to be HER2 positive (white: 30.1%, black: 28.8%, other: 26.1%) than HER2 negative. The median age at menarche was 12 years (IQR, 11-13). Those with an age at menarche around the median were less likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea (57.1%) than those who were 10 and younger (63.6%) or 15 and older (72.2%). As the number of children given birth to increased, there was a decline in the number of women who reported treatment-induced amenorrhea. Women who smoked were slightly more likely

to report amenorrhea (64.7%) compared to women who never smoked before diagnosis (59.1%). Amenorrhea did not differ by other population characteristics.

The proportion of women reporting amenorrhea did not differ by ER or PR status, but HER2 positive women were more likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea (67.1%) than HER2 negative women (57.4%).

Among breast cancer subtypes, luminal B women were most likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea (75.6%), while luminal A women were least likely to report experiencing amenorrhea (53.9%). A large majority of luminal A and luminal B women were ER and PR positive (luminal A: 96.1% ER positive, 84.3% PR positive; luminal B: 97.6% ER positive, 75.6% PR positive; Supplemental Table 2).

Generally, there was an increase in treatment-induced amenorrhea by stage, where 42.9% of stage one women experienced amenorrhea and 76.7% of stage three women experienced amenorrhea. Reported amenorrhea differed by chemotherapy regimen with AC plus taxane and Herceptin reporting amenorrhea most frequently (84.6%) and women receiving AC alone reporting amenorrhea less frequently (46.7%). Reported amenorrhea was similar across chemotherapy drug classes, except for women treated with antimetabolites, who were less likely to report amenorrhea (46.9%). Women taking Herceptin were more likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea than those who did not take Herceptin (77.8% versus 56.4% of those who did not take Herceptin). The proportion of women reporting amenorrhea did not differ substantially by BRCA1/BRCA2 status, radiation, surgery, or tamoxifen use.

In the model adjusted for confounding only, ER positive women were slightly less likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea than those who were ER negative

(adjusted odds ratio [aOR] = 0.75; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.31, 1.82), PR positive women were slightly more likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea than PR negative women (aOR = 1.33; 95% CI, 0.55, 3.22), but HER2 was not associated with treatment-induced amenorrhea (aOR = 1.17; 95% CI, 0.61, 2.23) (Table 3).

In the model adjusted for confounding and treatment, women who were ER positive were again less likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea than those who were ER negative (aOR = 0.74; 95% CI, 0.23, 2.34). Being PR positive was no longer associated with amenorrhea compared with being PR negative (aOR = 1.11; 95% CI, 0.43, 2.87), and women who were HER2 positive were about half as likely as HER2 negative women to report treatment-induced amenorrhea (aOR = 0.55; 95% CI, 0.23, 1.31). Herceptin appeared to strongly affect the estimated association between HER2 status and treatment-induced amenorrhea. Women who took Herceptin were much more likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea than those did not take Herceptin (aOR = 3.92; 95% CI, 1.27, 12.12).

When restricted to women who did not receive Herceptin and adjusted for confounding and treatment, no difference was found in the association between HER2 status and treatment-induced amenorrhea (aOR = 0.56; 95% CI, 0.23, 1.37) from the adjusted model including all women.

The relation between ER status and amenorrhea was found to be reversed in models restricted to women treated with the AC chemotherapy regimen, where ER positive women were more likely than ER negative women to experience treatment-induced amenorrhea (aOR = 1.17; 95% CI, 0.32, 4.33). However, this association was weak and less precise. PR positive women continued to be more likely to experience



treatment-induced amenorrhea than PR negative women, with the relation becoming stronger in the restricted model (aOR = 1.64; 95% CI, 0.55, 4.90). The relation between HER2 status and amenorrhea remained the same as the model adjusted for treatment with HER2 positive women being half as likely to experience treatment-induced amenorrhea (aOR = 0.55, 95% CI, 0.20, 1.48).

The second set of models examined the relation between cancer subtypes and treatment-induced amenorrhea (Table 4). In the model adjusted for confounding only, luminal A women were less likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea than triple-negative women (aOR = 0.61; 95% CI, 0.31, 1.23), but women who were luminal B were more likely than triple-negative women to report amenorrhea (aOR = 1.60; 95% CI, 0.55, 4.05). HER2-enriched women were about half as likely to report treatment-induced amenorrhea compared to triple-negative women (aOR = 0.47; 95% CI, 0.18, 1.25).

In the model adjusted for confounding and treatment, those who had luminal A breast cancer (aOR = 0.43; 95% CI, 0.13, 1.40), luminal B breast cancer (aOR = 0.51; 95% CI, 0.11, 2.25), and HER2-enriched breast cancer (aOR = 0.24; 95% CI, 0.08, 0.74) were all less likely to report experiencing treatment-induced amenorrhea than those who had triple-negative negative cancer. When restricted to those with the AC chemotherapy regimen, the relation between luminal A and treatment-induced amenorrhea slightly weakened and was imprecise (aOR = 0.72, 95% CI, 0.17, 3.01), and the luminal B subtype was not associated with treatment-induced amenorrhea (aOR = 1.19, 95% CI, 0.18, 7.80). The relation between HER2-enriched breast cancer and treatment-induced amenorrhea remained strong (aOR = 0.21, 95% CI, 0.05, 0.78).

## Discussion

Treatment with chemotherapy is associated with treatment-induced amenorrhea, but not all women get amenorrhea during chemotherapy. We evaluated whether receptor status could help identify women treated with chemotherapy at higher risk of treatment-induced amenorrhea. In our population, 92.8% of women, regardless of receptor status, were treated with an alkylating agent, which is associated with decreased fertility, and 67.5% of women were treated with the AC regimen specifically with or without other agents. HER2 positive women appeared to be less likely to experience amenorrhea after accounting for treatment, but Herceptin, which is commonly prescribed for women with HER2 positive tumors, seemed to increase the risk of amenorrhea. The association between receptor status and amenorrhea appeared to be less informative for ER and PR status.

Studies have examined many factors related to treatment-induced amenorrhea, but none to our knowledge have evaluated a relation between breast cancer receptor status or cancer subtypes and amenorrhea. However, researchers have previously examined the frequency of treatment-induced amenorrhea in populations restricted to or stratified by specific receptor statuses (56, 57). Vanhuyse *et al.* reported that among premenopausal women with receptor positive breast cancer, 57% experienced treatment-induced amenorrhea (56), which is similar to the frequency of amenorrhea among ER positive women in our study. Parulekar *et al.* stratified results by receptor status and reported that among women treated with cyclophosphamide based chemotherapy, 64% of receptor positive women and 58% of receptor negative women experienced amenorrhea (57). We

did not observe a difference in the frequency of amenorrhea by ER receptor status, but our frequencies were similar to those reported by Parulekar *et al.*

This study has several limitations. A larger sample size of eligible cancer survivors would have improved precision in this study. Also, treatment-induced amenorrhea may have been misclassified because women were asked to recall the duration of amenorrhea many years after treatment. However, we would not expect recall to systematically differ by receptor status. We defined treatment-induced amenorrhea as amenorrhea for six months or longer to maximize specificity, but we may have missed some women who underreported the duration of their treatment-induced amenorrhea. We prioritized specificity over sensitivity because we expect women reporting amenorrhea for a longer duration to be at greatest risk for subfertility. Further, there is potential for survival bias because women who did not survive to the interview may have been less likely to experience treatment-induced amenorrhea, which may be a sign that their treatment was inadequate. While predicting amenorrhea is relevant for all women, long-term survivors may have the greatest concern about amenorrhea and fertility.

There are several strengths to this study. First, breast cancer treatment and receptor status were collected directly from medical records. We also examined the relation between receptor status and amenorrhea overall and accounting for treatment by adjusting for treatment and by restricting to a single chemotherapy regimen. The self-reported amenorrhea data was collected a median 7 years after diagnosis (IQR 5-11 years), which helped identify the length of amenorrhea after treatment.

Treatment-induced amenorrhea may have long-term effects on a woman's fertility or be a marker of impaired fertility. Understanding factors associated with experiencing treatment-induced amenorrhea could help clinicians identify women treated with chemotherapy who are at highest risk. Being HER2 positive was associated with a decreased probability of reporting amenorrhea after accounting for treatment. However, because Herceptin is associated with an increased risk of amenorrhea, the potential benefit of being HER2 positive may be counter balanced by treatment with Herceptin. Herceptin, which is believed to reduce the diameter and volume of the blood vessels that provide blood to cancer cells (58), may be associated with amenorrhea by affecting the supply of blood to the uterus rather than being toxic to the ovaries. However, this has not been established, and in contrast to our results, Abusief *et al.* did not observe an association between Herceptin and amenorrhea (49). In our data, HER2 status was only associated with amenorrhea after accounting for Herceptin use, but our results were consistent regardless of how we addressed Herceptin use (adjustment or restriction). For the other receptors (ER and PR), the value of knowing receptor type beyond treatment was less clear because the results were less consistent. Knowing HER2 status and whether Herceptin will be prescribed may help clinicians counsel premenopausal breast cancer patients on the potential long-term effects of treatment on fertility.

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## Tables

**Table 1.** Study population characteristics by amenorrhea status among premenopausal women diagnosed with breast cancer (n= 249)

	Amenorrhea (n=150)		No amenorrhea <sup>a</sup> (n=99)	
	n	%	n	%
Age at diagnosis (years)				
20-29	36	62.1	22	37.9
30-35	114	59.7	77	40.3
Race				
White	80	54.8	66	45.2
Black	52	65.0	28	35.0
Other	18	78.3	5	21.7
Education				
Some college, technical school, or less	45	58.4	32	41.6
College graduate	48	58.5	34	41.5
Some graduate school or graduate school	57	63.3	33	36.7
Urban/Rural classification at diagnosis				
Non-metropolitan	16	55.2	13	44.8
Small metropolitan	30	57.7	22	42.3
Large metropolitan	103	61.7	64	38.3
Missing	1		0	
Marital status at diagnosis				
Yes	111	61.0	71	39.0
No	39	58.2	28	41.8
Household income in the past 12 months				
Less than \$25,000	20	62.5	12	37.5
\$25,000 to \$50,000	27	56.3	21	43.8
\$50,000 to \$75,000	29	61.7	18	38.3
\$75,000 to \$100,000	28	59.6	19	40.4
Greater than \$100,000	45	62.5	27	37.5
Missing	1		2	
Current insurance status				
No Insurance	10	55.6	8	44.4
Private	122	59.8	82	40.2
Public (Government)	17	65.4	9	34.6
Missing	1		0	

BMI at diagnosis				
Underweight	2	66.7	1	33.3
Normal	70	61.4	44	38.6
Overweight	39	58.2	28	41.8
Obese	30	65.2	16	34.8
Missing	9		10	
Age at menarche (years)				
≤10	49	63.6	28	36.4
11-14	88	57.1	66	42.9
≥15	13	72.2	5	27.8
Parity				
0	54	67.5	26	32.5
1	32	59.3	22	40.7
2	42	56.8	32	43.2
3 or more	22	53.7	19	46.3
Oral contraceptive use before diagnosis				
Yes	117	60.9	75	39.1
No	32	58.2	23	41.8
Missing	1		1	
Ever smoke before diagnosis				
Yes	33	64.7	18	35.3
No	117	59.1	81	40.9

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*Note:* BMI = body mass index

<sup>a</sup>No amenorrhea classified as no loss of menstrual period during treatment or loss of menstrual period for less than 6 months

**Table 2.** Cancer characteristics by amenorrhea status among premenopausal women diagnosed with breast cancer (n=249)

	Amenorrhea (n=150)		No amenorrhea <sup>a</sup> (n=99)	
	n	%	n	%
<b>Cancer Characteristics</b>				
ER status				
Positive	83	60.1	55	39.9
Negative	67	60.4	44	39.6
PR status				
Positive	70	59.8	47	40.2
Negative	80	60.6	52	39.4
HER2 status				
Positive	49	67.1	24	32.9
Negative	101	57.4	75	42.6
Breast cancer subtype <sup>b</sup>				
Luminal A	55	53.9	47	46.1
Luminal B	31	75.6	10	24.4
HER2 -enriched	18	56.3	14	43.8
Triple-negative	46	62.2	28	37.8
BRCA 1 status				
Positive	14	66.7	7	33.3
Negative	72	62.6	43	37.4
Missing	64		49	
BRCA 2 status				
Positive	5	62.5	3	37.5
Negative	82	64.1	46	35.9
Missing	63		50	
Stage				
0	3	42.9	4	57.1
1	26	45.6	31	54.4
2	80	63.0	47	37.0
3	33	76.7	10	23.3
4	4	57.1	3	42.9
Missing	4		4	

**Treatment Characteristics**

Chemotherapy regimen				
AC only	14	46.7	16	53.3
AC + taxane	71	66.4	36	33.6
AC + Herceptin	2	40.0	3	60.0
AC + taxane + Herceptin	22	84.6	4	15.4
Other	41	50.6	40	49.4
Chemotherapy drug class <sup>c</sup>				
Alkylating Agents	140	60.6	91	39.4
Topoisomerase Inhibitors	124	64.9	67	35.1
Mitotic Inhibitors	122	66.3	62	33.7
Antimetabolites	15	46.9	17	53.1
Missing	0		1	
Tamoxifen				
Yes	84	62.7	50	37.3
No	66	57.4	49	42.6
Herceptin				
Yes	35	77.8	10	22.2
No	114	56.4	88	43.6
Missing	1		1	
Radiation				
Yes	106	59.2	73	40.8
No	44	62.9	26	37.1
Surgery				
Mastectomy	38	51.4	36	48.6
Less than mastectomy	112	64.0	63	36.0

<sup>a</sup>No amenorrhea classified as no loss of menstrual period during treatment or loss of menstrual period for less than 6 months

<sup>b</sup>Luminal A (ER/PR +, HER2 -), Luminal B (ER/PR +, HER2 +), HER2-enriched (ER -, PR -, HER2 +), Triple-negative (ER-, PR-, HER2-)

<sup>c</sup>Not mutually exclusive



**Table 3.** Adjusted odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for receptor status and amenorrhea in population of premenopausal women diagnosed with breast cancer (n=223)

	Amenorrhea <sup>a</sup>	Total N	OR	95% CI
Adjusted for confounding <sup>b</sup> (N=223)				
ER				
Yes	77	126	0.75	0.31, 1.82
No	60	97	1.00	Referent
PR				
Yes	66	108	1.33	0.55, 3.22
No	71	115	1.00	Referent
HER2				
Yes	44	66	1.17	0.61, 2.23
No	93	157	1.00	Referent
Adjusted for confounding and treatment <sup>c</sup> (N=223)				
ER				
Yes	77	126	0.74	0.23, 2.34
No	60	97	1.00	Referent
PR				
Yes	66	108	1.11	0.43, 2.87
No	71	115	1.00	Referent
HER2				
Yes	44	66	0.55	0.23, 1.31
No	93	157	1.00	Referent
Adjusted for confounding and treatment, restricted to AC <sup>d</sup> (N=149)				
ER				
Yes	54	75	1.17	0.32, 4.33
No	46	74	1.00	Referent
PR				
Yes	46	62	1.64	0.55, 4.90
No	54	87	1.00	Referent
HER2				
Yes	31	47	0.55	0.20, 1.48
No	69	102	1.00	Referent

Adjusted for confounding and treatment, restricted to Herceptin non-users<sup>c</sup>(N=182)

ER					
Yes	56	101	0.71	0.21, 2.33	
No	49	81	1.00	Referent	
PR					
Yes	47	85	1.11	0.41, 3.00	
No	58	97	1.00	Referent	
HER2					
Yes	14	28	0.56	0.23, 1.37	
No	91	154	1.00	Referent	

<sup>a</sup> Amenorrhea classified as loss of menstrual period during treatment for six months or longer

<sup>b</sup> Model was adjusted for age at diagnosis, age at menarche, BMI at diagnosis, oral contraceptive use, and cancer stage

<sup>c</sup> Model was adjusted for age at diagnosis, age at menarche, BMI at diagnosis, oral contraceptive use, cancer stage, tamoxifen, Herceptin, alkylating agents, topoisomerase inhibitors, antimetabolites, and antimetabolites

<sup>d</sup> Model including women with AC chemotherapy regimen with or without a taxane and/or Herceptin. Adjusted for age at diagnosis, age at menarche, BMI at diagnosis, oral contraceptive use, cancer stage, tamoxifen, Herceptin, antimetabolites, and antimetabolites

<sup>e</sup> Model including women who did not receive Herceptin. Adjusted for age at diagnosis, age at menarche, BMI at diagnosis, oral contraceptive use, cancer stage, tamoxifen, alkylating agents, topoisomerase inhibitors, antimetabolites, and antimetabolites

**Table 4.** Adjusted odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for cancer subtype and amenorrhea in population of premenopausal women diagnosed with breast cancer (n=223)

	Amenorrhea <sup>a</sup>	Total N	OR	95% CI
Adjusted for confounding <sup>b</sup> (N=223)				
Luminal A				
Luminal A	52	95	0.61	0.31, 1.23
Triple-negative	41	62	1.00	Referent
Luminal B				
Luminal B	28	36	1.60	0.55, 4.05
Triple-negative	41	62	1.00	Referent
HER2-enriched				
HER2-enriched	16	30	0.47	0.18, 1.25
Triple-negative	41	62	1.00	Referent
Adjusted for confounding and treatment <sup>c</sup> (N=223)				
Luminal A				
Luminal A	52	95	0.43	0.13, 1.40
Triple-negative	41	62	1.00	Referent
Luminal B				
Luminal B	28	36	0.51	0.11, 2.25
Triple-negative	41	62	1.00	Referent
HER2-enriched				
HER2-enriched	16	30	0.24	0.08, 0.74
Triple-negative	41	62	1.00	Referent
Adjusted for confounding and treatment, restricted to AC <sup>d</sup> (N=149)				
Luminal A				
Luminal A	37	93	0.72	0.17, 3.01
Triple-negative	32	46	1.00	Referent
Luminal B				
Luminal B	20	24	1.19	0.18, 7.80
Triple-negative	32	46	1.00	Referent
HER2-enriched				
HER2-enriched	11	23	0.21	0.05, 0.78
Triple-negative	32	46	1.00	Referent

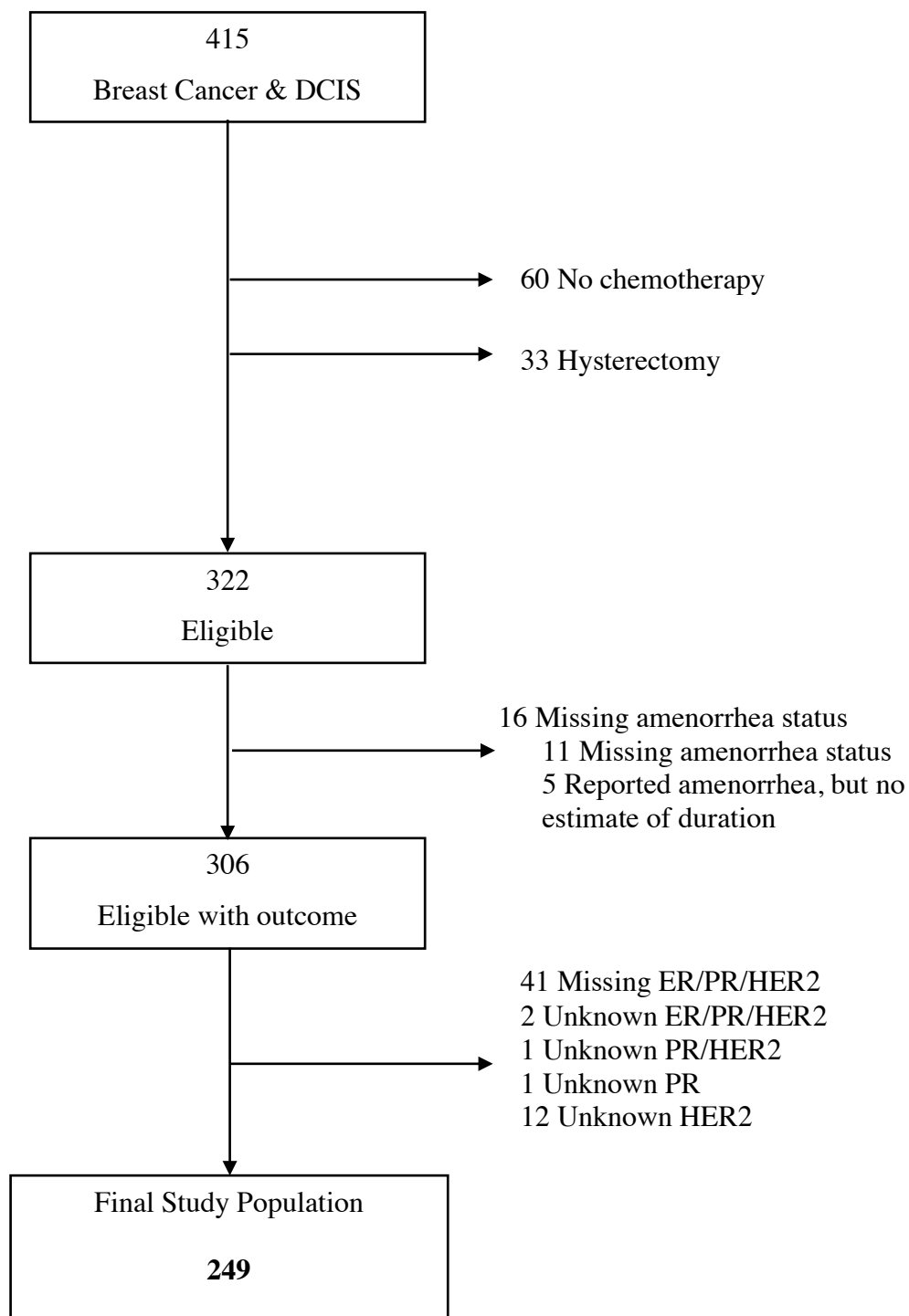
Note: Luminal A (ER/PR +, HER2 -), Luminal B (ER/PR +, HER2 +), HER2-enriched (ER -, PR -, HER2 +), Triple-negative (ER-, PR-, HER2-)

<sup>a</sup> Amenorrhea classified as loss of menstrual period during treatment for six months or longer

<sup>b</sup> Model was adjusted for age at diagnosis, age at menarche, BMI at diagnosis, oral contraceptive use, and cancer stage

<sup>c</sup> Model was adjusted for age at diagnosis, age at menarche, BMI at diagnosis, oral contraceptive use, cancer stage, tamoxifen, Herceptin, alkylating agents, topoisomerase inhibitors, antimitotic inhibitors, and antimetabolites

<sup>d</sup> Model including women with AC chemotherapy regimen with or without a taxane and/or Herceptin. Adjusted for age at diagnosis, age at menarche, BMI at diagnosis, oral contraceptive use, cancer stage, tamoxifen, Herceptin, antimitotic inhibitors, and antimetabolites

**Figures****Figure 1.** Population flowchart for study among premenopausal women diagnosed with breast cancer

### Appendix A: Supplementary Tables

**Supplemental Table 1.** Study population characteristics by receptor status among premenopausal women diagnosed with breast cancer (n= 249)

	<b>ER+ (n=138)</b>		<b>ER- (n=111)</b>		<b>PR+ (n=117)</b>		<b>PR- (n=132)</b>		<b>HER2+ (n=73)</b>		<b>HER2- (n=176)</b>	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Age at diagnosis (years)												
20-29	35	25.4	23	20.7	32	27.4	26	19.7	23	31.5	35	19.9
30-35	103	74.6	88	79.3	85	72.6	106	80.3	50	68.5	141	80.1
Race												
White	92	66.7	54	48.6	79	67.5	67	50.8	44	60.3	102	58.0
Black	38	27.5	42	37.8	31	26.5	49	37.1	23	31.5	57	32.4
Other	8	5.8	15	13.5	7	6.0	16	12.1	6	8.2	17	9.7
Education												
Some college, technical school, or less	38	27.5	39	35.1	33	28.2	44	33.3	17	23.3	60	34.1
College graduate	49	35.5	33	29.7	40	34.2	42	31.8	21	28.8	61	34.7
Some graduate school or graduate school	51	37.0	39	35.1	44	37.6	46	34.8	35	47.9	55	31.3
Urban/Rural classification at diagnosis												
Non- metropolitan	17	12.4	12	10.8	15	12.8	14	10.7	10	13.7	19	10.9
Small metropolitan	31	22.6	21	18.9	26	22.2	26	19.8	15	20.5	37	21.1
Large metropolitan	89	65.0	78	70.3	76	65.0	91	69.5	48	65.8	119	68.0
Missing	1		0		0		1		0		1	
Marital status at diagnosis												
Yes	102	73.9	80	72.1	88	75.2	94	71.2	56	76.7	126	71.6
No	36	26.1	31	27.9	29	24.8	38	28.8	17	23.3	50	28.4
Household income in the past 12 months												
Less than \$25,000	19	14.0	13	11.8	18	15.7	14	10.7	8	11.1	24	13.8
\$25,000 to \$50,000	20	14.7	28	25.5	13	11.3	35	26.7	12	16.7	36	20.7
\$50,000 to \$75,000	29	21.3	18	16.4	25	21.7	22	16.8	14	19.4	33	19.0
\$75,000 to \$100,000	25	18.4	22	20.0	23	20.0	24	18.3	14	19.4	33	19.0

Greater than \$100,000	43	31.6	29	26.4	36	31.3	36	27.5	24	33.3	48	27.6
Missing	2		1		2		1		1		2	
Current insurance status												
No Insurance	8	5.8	10	9.0	6	5.2	12	9.1	6	8.3	12	6.8
Private	112	81.8	92	82.9	98	84.5	106	80.3	59	81.9	145	82.4
Public	17	12.4	9	8.1	12	10.3	14	10.6	7	9.7	19	10.8
Missing	1		0		1		0		1		0	
BMI at diagnosis												
Underweight	1	0.8	2	2.0	1	0.9	2	1.7	1	2.6	2	1.2
Normal	70	53.8	44	44.0	57	50.9	57	48.3	3	7.9	81	50.0
Overweight	40	30.8	27	27.0	37	33.0	30	25.4	19	50.0	48	29.6
Obese	19	14.6	27	27.0	17	15.2	29	24.6	15	39.5	31	19.1
Missing	8		11		5		14		5		14	
Age at menarche (years)												
≤10	42	30.4	35	31.5	35	29.9	42	31.8	17	23.3	60	34.1
11-14	83	60.1	71	64.0	73	62.4	81	61.4	49	67.1	105	59.7
≥15	13	9.4	5	4.5	9	7.7	9	6.8	7	9.6	11	6.3
Parity												
0	57	41.3	23	20.7	44	37.6	36	25.4	26	35.6	54	30.7
1	25	18.1	29	26.1	22	18.8	32	22.5	12	16.4	42	23.9
2	43	31.2	31	27.9	39	33.3	35	24.6	20	27.4	54	30.7
3 or more	13	9.4	28	25.2	12	10.3	39	27.5	15	20.5	26	14.8
Oral contraceptive use before diagnosis												
Yes	114	83.2	78	70.9	96	82.8	96	73.3	55	75.3	137	78.7
No	23	16.8	32	29.1	20	17.2	35	26.7	18	24.7	37	21.3
Missing	1		1		1		1		0		2	
Ever smoke before diagnosis												
Yes	30	21.7	21	18.9	22	18.8	29	22.0	16	21.9	35	19.9
No	108	78.3	90	81.1	95	81.2	103	78.0	57	78.1	141	80.1

*Note:* BMI = body mass index

**Supplemental Table 2.** Cancer characteristics by receptor status among premenopausal women diagnosed with breast cancer (n=249)

	<b>ER+</b> <b>(n=138)</b>		<b>ER-</b> <b>(n=111)</b>		<b>PR+</b> <b>(n=117)</b>		<b>PR-</b> <b>(n=132)</b>		<b>HER2+</b> <b>(n=73)</b>		<b>HER2-</b> <b>(n=176)</b>	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Cancer Characteristics</b>												
Breast cancer subtype <sup>a</sup>												
Luminal A	98	71.0	4	3.6	86	73.5	16	12.1	0	0.0	102	58.0
Luminal B	40	29.0	1	0.9	31	26.5	10	7.6	41	56.2	0	0.0
HER2-enriched	0	0.0	32	28.8	0	0.0	32	24.2	32	43.8	0	0.0
Triple-negative	0	0.0	74	66.7	0	0.0	74	56.1	0	0.0	74	42.0
BRCA 1 status												
Positive	3	3.8	18	31.0	5	7.6	16	22.9	3	6.7	18	19.8
Negative	75	96.2	40	69.0	61	92.4	54	77.1	42	93.3	73	80.2
Missing	60		53		51		62		28		85	
BRCA 2 status												
Positive	4	5.1	4	6.9	2	3.0	6	8.6	4	8.5	4	4.5
Negative	74	94.9	54	93.1	64	97.0	64	91.4	43	91.5	85	95.5
Missing	60		53		51		62		26		87	
Stage												
0	5	3.7	2	1.9	3	2.7	4	3.1	3	4.2	4	2.4
1	31	23.1	26	24.3	29	25.7	28	21.9	11	15.5	46	27.1
2	70	52.2	57	53.3	60	53.1	67	52.3	32	45.1	95	55.9
3	23	17.2	20	18.7	16	14.2	27	21.1	21	29.6	22	12.9
4	5	3.7	2	1.9	5	4.4	2	1.6	4	5.6	3	1.8
Missing	4		4		4		4		2		6	
<b>Treatment Characteristics</b>												
Chemotherapy regimen												
AC only	15	10.9	15	13.5	13	11.1	17	12.9	6	8.2	24	13.6
AC + taxane	53	38.4	54	48.6	42	35.9	65	49.2	17	23.3	90	51.1
AC + Herceptin	3	2.2	2	1.8	2	1.7	3	2.3	4	5.5	1	0.6
AC + taxane + Herceptin	15	10.9	11	9.9	14	12.0	12	9.1	26	35.6	0	0.0
Other	52	37.7	29	26.1	46	39.3	35	26.5	20	27.4	61	34.7



Chemotherapy drug class <sup>b</sup>													
Alkylating			10		10								
Agents	128	36.6	3	35.8	9	36.6	122	35.9	69	35.4	162	36.6	
Topoisomerase													
Inhibitors	99	28.3	92	31.9	84	28.2	107	31.5	59	30.3	132	29.8	
Mitotic													
Inhibitors	105	30.0	79	27.4	88	29.5	96	28.2	60	30.8	124	28.0	
Antimetabolites	18	5.1	14	4.9	17	5.7	15	4.4	7	3.6	25	5.6	
Missing	0		1		0		1		0		1		
Tamoxifen													
						10							
Yes	122	88.4	12	10.8	4	88.9	30	22.7	38	52.1	96	54.5	
No	16	11.6	99	89.2	13	11.1	102	77.3	35	47.9	80	45.5	
Herceptin													
Yes	27	19.7	18	16.4	25	21.4	20	15.4	42	57.5	3	1.7	
No	110	80.3	92	83.6	92	78.6	110	84.6	31	42.5	171	98.3	
Missing	1		1		0		2		0		2		
Radiation													
Yes	104	75.4	75	67.6	85	72.6	94	71.2	55	75.3	124	70.5	
No	34	24.6	36	32.4	32	27.4	38	28.8	18	24.7	52	29.5	
Surgery													
Mastectomy	42	30.4	32	28.8	38	32.5	36	27.3	16	21.9	58	33.0	
Less than													
mastectomy	96	69.6	79	71.2	79	67.5	96	72.7	57	78.1	118	67.0	

<sup>a</sup> Luminal A (ER/PR +, HER2 -), Luminal B (ER/PR +, HER2 +), HER2-enriched (ER -, PR -, HER2 +), Triple-negative (ER-, PR-, HER2-)

<sup>b</sup> Not mutually exclusive