



Characteristics of Patients With Breast Cancer With Brain Metastases Who Live Longer Than 60 Months

Kadri Altundag

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To The Editor:

I wish to congratulate Klar and colleagues for their article¹ in which they identified features associated with metastatic breast cancer survival. They reported that diagnosis of de novo metastatic breast cancer, premenopausal status, estrogen receptor-positive status, and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-positive status were positively associated, whereas triple-negative status, brain metastases, and visceral plus bone metastases were inversely associated with long-term survival. Although the survival outcome for patients with breast cancer with brain metastases is generally poor, there were some long-term survivors among these groups. In our study, we retrospectively evaluated clinical data from 420 patients who had been diagnosed with breast cancer and brain metastases.² Interestingly, of these 420 patients, 18 (4.2%) patients were alive at least 60 months after this diagnosis. The median age of these relatively longer surviving patients was 42 years. Approximately

50% of these patients had estrogen receptor-positive or progesterone receptor-positive disease. Forty-six percent of these patients had a single central nervous system metastasis. In conclusion, compared with an unselected series of patients with breast cancer with brain metastases, long-term survivors were younger and were predominantly premenopausal. This group also included a higher proportion of patients with a single metastatic lesion and with brain as the first metastatic site. Any of these characteristics may interpret their potential for longer survival.

References

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MKA Breast Cancer Clinic, Ankara, Turkey

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