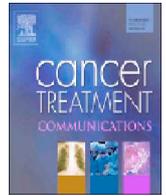




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## Long term survival study of de-novo metastatic breast cancers with or without primary tumour resection



### Response to editor

I am writing in response to Dr. Kadri Altundag's letter on the publication titled "De-novo metastatic breast cancers with or without primary tumor resection – A 10-year study".

Surgical resection of primary breast tumor is not a standard treatment for de-novo metastatic breast cancers in our center. It is reserved in patients who responded well to initial systemic treatment or hormonal therapy. In addition, general fitness to general anesthesia is also one of the prerequisites for surgery in this group of patients.

We totally agree with Dr. Altundag that the optimal time for surgical intervention for de-novo metastatic breast cancer patients is around 8–10 months. For patients who receive chemotherapy or targeted therapy as systemic treatment, depending on the regime that the patient received, patients usually receive re-assessment, using with Positron-emission tomography (PET) – CT scan or CT scan thorax, abdomen and bone scan after the systemic therapy, followed by surgical removal of the primary breast cancer.

Patients who receive primary hormonal therapy are usually monitored for at least 6 months for tumor response. Similar to patients who received chemo- or targeted therapy, these patients receive PET – CT

scan for assessment of good systemic control prior to the surgical removal of the primary tumor.

With regards further information on radiotherapy in our study cohort. Radiotherapy was performed in all 5 patients who received breast conserving surgery. In addition, radiotherapy was also performed in 25 patients who received mastectomy in our cohort. We did not specifically look into the survival outcomes of patients who had or had not received radiotherapy. However, we do agree that this is the area that worth further investigation, particularly based on the promising results on radiotherapy in metastatic breast cancer that you have shared.

Thank you very much for your interest in our article.

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