Prognostic Significance of Obesity and Diabetes Mellitus in Women With Brain Metastases From Breast Cancer Should Be Revisited

Kadri Altundag

Clinical Breast Cancer, Vol. 19, No. 3, e399

To The Editor,

I wish to congratulate Cacho-Díaz and colleagues for their article[1] in which they investigated the association between obesity or diabetes mellitus (DM) and the overall survival of 228 patients with breast cancer (BC) with brain metastasis (BM). They found no association between overweight, obesity, or DM and survival in patients with BC with BM. Interestingly, another study by McCall et al[2] analyzed the prognostic significance of obesity and DM in 84 women with BM from BC. They reported that resection rates, receptor status, and body mass index (BMI) $\geq$ 25 kg/m^2 (n = 45) were associated with decreased median overall survival (13.7 vs. 30.6 months; $P < .001$) and median intracranial progression-free survival (7.4 vs. 10.9 months; $P = .04$) compared with patients with BMI < 25 kg/m^2 (n = 39). In contrast to the study by Cacho-Díaz et al, they found that both BMI $\geq$ 25 kg/m^2 ($P = .002$) and DM ($P = .002$) were associated with increased mortality. In conclusion, contradictory results from these 2 studies should be clarified in larger prospective studies.

References

1. Cacho-Díaz B, Spínola-Maroño H, Reynoso N, González-Aguilar A, Mohar-Betancourt A. Role of overweight, obesity, and comorbidities in the prognosis of breast cancer patients with brain metastases. *Clin Breast Cancer* 2019; 19: e394-8.
2. McCall NS, Simone BA, Mehta M, et al. Onco-metabolism: defining the prognostic significance of obesity and diabetes in women with brain metastases from breast cancer. *Breast Cancer Res Treat* 2018; 172:221-30.

MKA Breast Cancer Clinic, Tepe Prime, Ankara, Turkey

Submitted: Jan 9, 2019; Accepted: Jan 14, 2019; Epub: Jan 23, 2019

1526-8209/$ - see frontmatter
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clbc.2019.01.004