Portsmouth Regional Hospital
Cancer Program
Male Breast Cancer
Between the Years 2003 - 2008

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This review was undertaken to answer the clinical question whether there was an excess number of male breast cancers presenting at Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

In the 5 years between 2003 and 2008 there were 9 male breast cancers diagnosed and operated on at PRH. In comparison there were 437 female breast cancers for the same period. Giving a percentage rate of 2% of male cancer to a total breast cancer rate. This is approximately twice the estimated national rare but given the small sample size is probably with the range of statistical variation. Seven of the nine were ductal carcinomas, one ductal carcinoma in-situ and one lobuloductal cancer. Ductal carcinoma by far, is the most common breast cancer in males. In fact, pure lobular carcinoma probable does not occur.

Typical of this disease, the majority of these men presented with palpable tumors between1 and 2.5cm. in size with only one man having documented positive lymph node metastases. Of the 8 invasive ductal carcinomas all were Estrogen receptor positive. None were Her2 positive and none had metastatic disease. All of these patients were over 60 years of age with a mean of 72.5 years.

There is no data regarding the adjuvant therapy our patients received. However, at last follow up only one patient had died. This man had multiple simultaneous other cancer types and died of rectal cancer. There is a high incidence of genetic cancer predisposition including BRCA2, BRCA 1, and Klinefelter's syndromes, and environmental risk factors such as liver disease and testicular injury. The one male with multiple cancers is presumed to have one of these but died before genetic workup was complete. There is no other information about the other men's predispositions.

In summary, we have a slightly higher rare of male breast than the national average. Our patient's have overall done very well. Due to the fact that most presented with early disease which was dealt with early and appropriately.