



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Data and the management of breast cancer

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Data collected by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is informing the work of researchers and clinicians engaged in the fight against breast cancer, according to the latest edition of the *ANZ Journal of Surgery*.

“The College’s National Breast Cancer Audit (NBCA) has collected descriptive data on breast cancer and its treatment since 1998,” Professor Guy Maddern of Adelaide University’s Department of Surgery, and one of the authors of the article, said. “These data support clinical audit by surgeons of their practices and are used for research into breast cancer and its management.”

Death data were traced to 31 December 2007. Invasive cancers diagnosed in 1998–2005 were included in survival analyses to allow enough follow-up for assessment. Survivals were compared with survivals for similar stages recorded by the New South Wales Cancer Registry and USA Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) programme. Survivals were analysed by conventional clinical risk factors to see if expected differences presented.

Professor Maddern said the 5-year survival from breast cancer of 93% for NBCA cases was the same as the SEER figure for local and regional cases combined in 1996–2004. The NBCA figure for localized cases was 97%, which was the same as for NSW. Node-positive NBCA cancers had a 5-year survival of 89%, which was slightly higher than the corresponding 86% for NSW, which may reflect exclusion from the NBCA of some cases with a poorer prognosis, including those with positive fixed nodes.

“As expected, lower survivals presented for older cases and those with conventional clinical risk factors,” Professor Maddern said.

“These survivals are credible both overall and by clinical risk factor. There are opportunities to use these data for survival monitoring and to investigate survival by socio-demographic characteristic, treatment protocol, case volume and provider characteristics,” he said.

The *ANZ Journal of Surgery*, established more than 70 years and published by Wiley-Blackwell, is the pre-eminent surgical journal published in Australia, New Zealand and the South-East Asian region. The Journal is dedicated to the promotion of outstanding surgical practice, and research of contemporary and international interest.

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