TITLE:  Wait Times for Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer Patients: Guidelines

DATE:  17 February 2010

RESEARCH QUESTION:
What are the guidelines regarding optimal wait times following diagnosis for breast cancer patients receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy?

METHODS:
A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 1, 2010), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between 2005 and February 2010. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS:
HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

The literature search identified one systematic review, five observational studies, and one evidence-based guideline. No health technology assessments, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or controlled clinical trials were identified. Additional references that may be of interest have been included in the appendix.

Health technology assessments
No literature identified

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Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified

Controlled clinical trials
No literature identified

Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations

APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Observational studies – wait times after surgery


Additional references


Note: see Sequencing of RT and chemotherapy, page 8