

# Bilateral breast cancer in a Nigerian community

Wilson I. B. Onuigbo\*

Department of Pathology, Medical Foundation and Clinic, 8 Nsukka Lane, Enugu Nigeria

## Abstract

In different parts of the world, there is published evidence regarding the bilateral synchronous occurrence of breast cancer. Therefore, this paper considers the parameters met among the Igbo Ethnic Group, who are domiciled mostly in South-Eastern Nigeria. The median age was 42 years. In the series of 6 cases, all but one was synchronous. The histological type tended to be the same on both sides, including one woman in whom three distinct types occurred bilaterally. Ductal carcinoma was the commonest type while the odd inflammatory carcinoma was prominent.

## Introduction

Bilateral breast cancer has been reported from countries as diverse as USA, Italy, Greece, India, and Japan [1-5]. Therefore, the present paper documents the parameters discovered among the Igbo Ethnic Group, which is domiciled in South-Eastern Nigeria. The work was facilitated by following the advice of a Birmingham (UK) group to the effect that having a histopathology data pool encourages epidemiological analysis [6,7].

## Investigation

Such a pool in Enugu enabled the author to document cases of bilateral breast cancer in this developing community. In particular, the doctors were encouraged to submit biopsies with relevant clinical notes.

## Discussion

Greek authors documented a large series of bilateral breast cancer, concluding that the histopathologic type of the one tumor was the same as the other in 62.8% of all cases [8]. The proportion was 83.3% locally. As regards the median age, Indian authors obtained 40 years, while a Korean group got 41 years, and a Chinese case was 43 years old [9-11]. The present cohort came to the close 42.5 years.

A combined team of Swedish and US investigators lamented that "Little is known, however, about incidence trends and prognostic features of bilateral breast cancer" [12]. What does the present series add? It is striking that inflammatory carcinoma, which is uncommon, cropped up here rather often. No doubt, such epidemiological parameters merit documentation [13].

**Table 1.** Epidemiological data on bilateral breast cancer

No	Initials	Age	Right	Left	Onset
1	US	45	If	If	Synchronous
2	IT	40	If	If	Synchronous
3	EL	36	Mu,Du	Du	Synchronous
4	EO	43	Du	Du	Synchronous
5	IN	35	Du	Du	Metachronous
6	UL	52	If, Du, Lo	If, Du, Lo	Synchronous

If: Inflammatory carcinoma; Du: Ductal carcinoma; Mu: Mucinous carcinoma; Lo: Lobular carcinoma

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**Correspondence to:** Wilson I. B. Onuigbo, Department of Pathology, Medical Foundation and Clinic, 8 Nsukka Lane, Enugu Nigeria, E-mail: wilson.onuigbo@gmail.com

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