



Effective Health Care

Imaging Techniques for Surveillance/follow-up After the Treatment of Non-metastatic Breast Cancer Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The topic, *Imaging Techniques for Surveillance/follow-up After the Treatment of Non-metastatic Breast Cancer*, was found to be addressed by clinical guideline and associated systematic review from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) titled, *Breast Cancer Follow-up and Management in the Adjuvant Setting: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Update (2012)*. Given that this existing guideline covers this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
- Khatcheressian JL, Hurley P, Bantug E, et al. Breast cancer follow-up and management after primary treatment: American Society of Clinical Oncology clinical practice guideline update. *J Clin Oncology* 2012; 31(7):961-5.

Topic Description

Nominator(s): Organization

Nomination Summary: The nomination was received through a recommendation by a group of stakeholders who felt there was uncertainty in the best imaging techniques that could be used for surveillance of breast cancer patients. Breast cancer has a lifetime risk of 12.5% among women and is the second leading cause of deaths due to cancer in women.

Staff-Generated PICO Population(s): Women (as well as men) who are in stable remission after non-metastatic breast cancer

Intervention(s): Imaging techniques including, but not limited to, ultrasonography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

Comparator(s): Those listed above (i.e., compared to each other), usual follow-up/surveillance with mammography

Outcome(s): Improvements in primary outcomes such as mortality and recurrence of breast cancer

Key Questions from Nominator: What is comparative effectiveness of various imaging techniques for the surveillance/follow-up after treatment of non-metastatic breast cancer?

Considerations

- The topic meets Effective Health Care (EHC) Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Breast cancer poses a significant burden on women in the United States. It is the most common type of cancer after skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death after lung cancer. Although there are a number of treatment options available for women with breast cancer, recurrence rates and 5-year survival rates for breast cancer are still of particular concern. The early detection of breast cancer recurrence during follow up is associated with significantly better survival than if that recurrence is detected later.
- Many imaging techniques, such as mammography, ultrasonography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and bone scans, are available for use in surveillance of breast cancer patients. The appropriate use of imaging techniques can make an impact on the detection of breast cancer recurrence, and thus have an impact on the overall treatment and survival of breast cancer patients and survivors.
- The ASCO clinical guideline and associated systematic review, *Breast Cancer Follow-up and Management in the Adjuvant Setting: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Update (2012)* reviews the available literature to date and an additional systematic review would be duplicative at this time
- There are several imaging techniques that could be used in the follow-up and surveillance after breast cancer treatment; however, there is not high quality, comparative research to determine whether a change in current practice (e.g. use of mammography for surveillance purposes) is warranted. Therefore the topic, Imaging Techniques for Surveillance/follow-up After the Treatment of Non-metastatic Breast Cancer, could potentially be considered for new research in comparative effectiveness.