International Journal of Academic Health and Medical Research (IJAHMR)
ISSN: 2643-9824
Vol. 10 Issue 5 May - 2026, Pages: 91-95

Clinical Profiling and Epidemiological Mapping of Oncology Patients Undergoing LINAC Radiotherapy: A Regional Cohort Analysis

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Abstract: *Background: The deployment of ionizing radiation remains central to modern oncologic care. Yet, localized epidemiological nuances often dictate clinical outcomes. This retrospective evaluation maps the demographic and pathologic contours of a regional cancer cohort managed via Medical Linear Accelerator (LINAC) protocols. Methods: A cross-sectional framework was applied to evaluate 29 fully documented patients. Variables under scrutiny spanned age distribution, baseline comorbidities (specifically hypertension and metabolic disorders), educational background, and tumor histology. Data extraction and subsequent statistical modeling relied heavily on Python-based descriptive paradigms. Results: Female cohorts dominated the clinical landscape (86.2%), an asymmetry largely propelled by breast malignancies, which alone constituted 51.7% of all recorded pathologies. Age metrics highlighted a sharp vulnerability window between 45 and 55 years (mean = 51.5). Coexisting hypertension presented in over a third (34.5%) of the population, posing non-trivial challenges for radiation planning. Concurrently, a troubling correlation emerged between delayed breast cancer presentation and lower educational attainment. Conclusion: The data uncovers a localized epidemic of breast tumors among middle-aged women, deeply intertwined with socioeconomic variables. Aggressive, age-targeted screening, alongside cardio-inclusive oncologic planning, emerges as an immediate regional necessity.*

Keywords: Clinical Epidemiology, Linear Accelerator, Oncology Profiling, Radiotherapy, Comorbidities.

1. Introduction

Malignant cell eradication through calculated doses of ionizing energy forms the backbone of clinical radiotherapy. Rather than the low-level exposures familiar to diagnostic radiography, therapeutic regimens deliberately shatter the DNA architecture of rapidly dividing cells, effectively halting unregulated proliferation [1]. In contemporary practice, external beam delivery leans almost entirely on the Medical Linear Accelerator. By accelerating electrons to extreme kinetic states and forcing collisions with high-density targets, these machines generate potent X-ray streams [2]. The resulting beams are heavily modulated, sculpting the radiation envelope to tightly match the physical dimensions of the targeted mass. This physical precision ensures maximum tumoral necrosis while simultaneously sparing adjacent healthy architecture [3, 4]. Despite widespread global documentation detailing the biophysical dynamics of radiation, regional epidemiological blueprints remain remarkably sparse. Understanding patient demographics—ranging from prevalent tumor types to localized comorbidities—is crucial for tailoring clinical protocols. Consequently, this investigation seeks to profile the specific clinical realities facing patients undergoing LINAC treatments in our region, identifying both pathological trends and underlying socioeconomic markers (Fig. 1).

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Cohort Assembly

We implemented a retrospective, cross-sectional design to analyze patients actively receiving radiotherapy. Initially encompassing 34 registered individuals, strict filtering for data completeness narrowed the final cohort to 29 patients. The geographic footprint of the sample covered multiple districts, primarily drawing from Najaf, Diwaniya, and Samawa.

Figure 1 shows the linear accelerator device.

2.2. Clinical and Demographic Variables

Data harvesting targeted several core metrics: chronological age, sex, formal education level, geographic residence, and primary histological diagnosis (categorized by ICD standards). We also documented systemic comorbidities, placing particular emphasis on cardiovascular anomalies like hypertension, alongside historical smoking habits.

2.3. Computational Analysis

All raw data aggregation and subsequent visual modeling were executed via Python (version 3.14). Libraries such as Pandas and Seaborn facilitated the generation of descriptive statistical models, allowing us to map frequency distributions and uncover latent correlations between patient backgrounds and disease prevalence.

3. Results

3.1. Age Dynamics

Chronological tracking of the cohort (age range: 23–75 years) yielded a mean age of 51.5. A stark concentration of cases materialized within the fifth decade of life. The resulting density curve clearly identifies the 41–60-year bracket as the primary danger zone for oncological onset within this population (Fig.2).

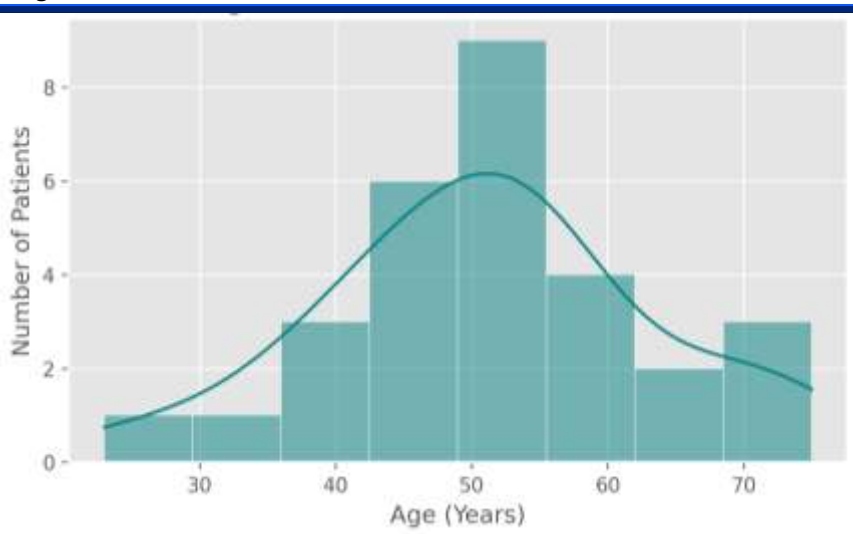

Figure 2: Distribution of patient ages highlighting the mid-life density spike.

3.2. Histological Frequencies and Gender Asymmetry

Pathological breakdowns revealed a striking gender imbalance. Breast cancer (ICD C50) vastly outnumbered all other malignancies, capturing 15 out of the 29 cases (roughly 52%). Other malignancies, ranging from lung carcinomas to ependymomas and prostate tumors, appeared only in isolated, low-frequency instances (Fig. 3).

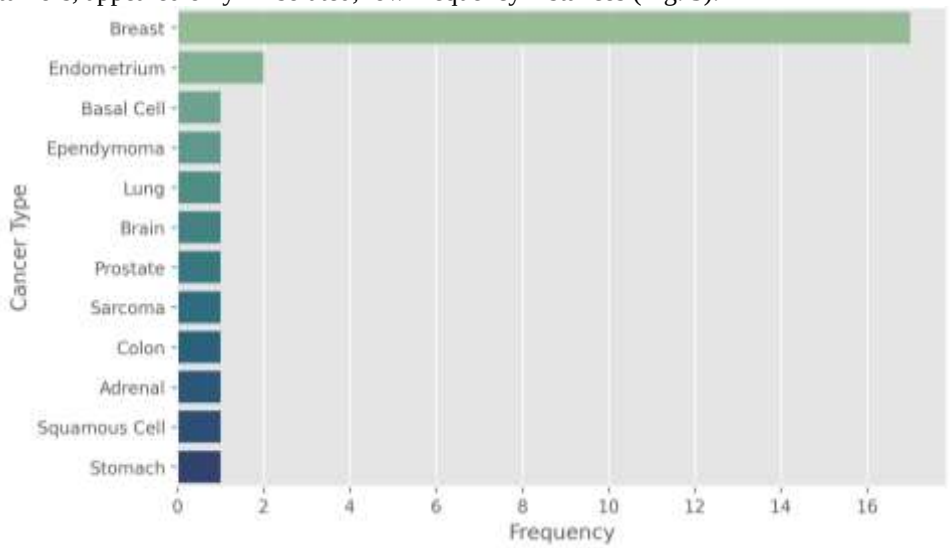

Figure 3: Prevalence and frequency ranking of recorded cancer types.

3.3. Comorbidity Landscape

Assessing baseline health is imperative when planning radiation dosages. A substantial 34.5% of the studied individuals harbored concurrent hypertension. Conversely, diabetes mellitus proved statistically negligible (a single case). Interestingly, only three individuals possessed a documented history of smoking, suggesting that tobacco exposure was not the primary carcinogenic driver for the majority of this specific cohort (Fig. 4).

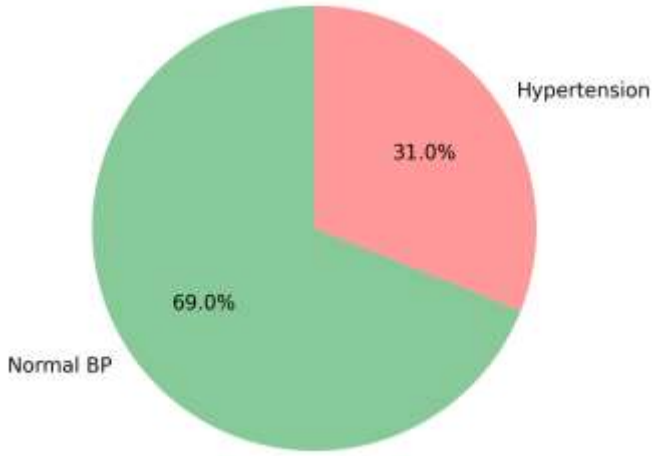

Figure 4: Representation of concurrent hypertension among the treated sample.

3.4. The Education Factor

When mapping educational levels against pathological diagnoses, an alarming trend surfaced. The overwhelming majority of female patients battling breast tumors fell into the 'Illiterate' or 'Primary Education only' categories. This socio-educational gap strongly hints at systemic issues regarding health literacy and the lack of early self-examination routines.

4. Discussion

Interpreting these regional metrics offers a stark view of the local oncology landscape. The absolute dominance of breast malignancies—representing over half of the entire patient pool—is a severe metric. While it mirrors global female cancer trends, the concentrated magnitude here is troubling. The heavy clustering of these specific cases among women with minimal formal education implies a delayed diagnostic timeline. Essentially, lack of health awareness translates directly to late-stage presentation.

Furthermore, the sharp spike in overall cancer incidence between ages 45 and 55 aligns with standard models of age-induced carcinogenesis [5]. Yet, it serves as a glaring warning sign, demanding the implementation of aggressive screening protocols before individuals exit their fourth decade.

From a purely clinical standpoint, the high rate of concurrent hypertension (approaching 35%) fundamentally complicates treatment logistics. Radiation exposure can inherently trigger localized vascular stress and endothelial damage [6, 7]. Therefore, treating a highly hypertensive population mandates the integration of rigorous cardio-oncology safeguards to prevent adverse cardiovascular events during or post-treatment. Finally, the unexpectedly low smoking rate among the patients forces us to look beyond tobacco. It suggests that hidden variables—perhaps localized environmental toxins, dietary habits, or undiagnosed genetic predispositions—are fueling the regional cancer burden [8, 9, 10].

5. Conclusion

This analytical deep-dive exposes the demographic and pathological realities of patients undergoing LINAC treatments locally. Middle-aged women face the highest oncological risk, driven entirely by an epidemic of breast cancer. The clear intersection between lower educational attainment and disease prevalence exposes a critical gap in community health awareness. Coupled with high baseline hypertension requiring specialized clinical handling, the data points to an urgent need for multidimensional healthcare strategies. Public health bodies must rapidly deploy early screening campaigns targeting the vulnerable 40–60 age demographic, while clinics must prioritize integrated cardiovascular monitoring for irradiated patients.

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