

**BARRIERS TO QUALITY CARE IN BREAST CANCER MANAGEMENT IN
KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL'S CANCER TREATMENT UNIT**

INVESTIGATOR

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ABSTRACT

Background: Breast cancer management involves providing quality care that begins from the time of diagnosis to palliative/hospice care but despite increased efforts to increase access to breast cancer services, through a strategic policy in Kenya, the quality and accessibility to breast cancer management provided to breast cancer patients at a referral facility is still limited.

Objective: To determine the barriers to quality care on breast cancer management in Kenyatta National Hospital- Cancer Treatment Unit. The study aimed at determining how institutional, socio-economic, cultural and service provider barriers impacted on knowledge, attitude and practice of subjects and influenced quality care in breast cancer management.

Design: This was a descriptive cross-sectional institution based quantitative and qualitative study that determined barriers to quality care in breast cancer management in Kenyatta National Hospital- Cancer Treatment Unit.

Study sample: A total of 100 randomly selected, histological confirmed breast cancer patients were interviewed using standard pre-tested questionnaires. Focus group discussions and key informants interview were also conducted after ethical approval of study from Ethics committee and clients consenting for participation in the study.

Data Analysis: Data was entered into Microsoft Access software and transferred into STATA version 10 for analysis. Descriptive and inferential statistical statistics were generated to describe relationship between outcome and explanatory variables. The research was conducted for 16 weeks.

Research results: Of the n=100 clients accrued, through Principal Component Analysis -socio-economic status grouped 40% in poorest category and 60% in richest category. Barriers to quality care included client's employment status, health insurance coverage, cost of illness, cost of transport, inadequate resources and health care provider communication skills

Conclusion: Permanent interventions should be formulated to help patients, health care providers and breast cancer institutions deal with barriers to quality of care

Recommendations: Building of a comprehensive cancer centre by the government will enhance quality care in all aspects, to breast cancer patients and cancer patients in general.