Pregnancy after Breast Cancer in Germany – Results of a Retrospective Database Analysis

Original title: Schwangerschaften nach Brustkrebs in Deutschland – Ergebnisse einer retrospektiven Datenbankanalyse

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Background: After the establishment of the FertiPROTEKT network in 2006, an impetus for possibilities of pregnancy during and after breast cancer was introduced. Nowadays, breast cancer survivors are confronted with the question how often women become pregnant after breast cancer and whether there have been significant changes in this respect during the past 10 years. The aim of the study was, therefore, to examine the change in frequency of pregnancies after breast cancer treatment and the time from the first breast cancer diagnosis to pregnancy over one decade, i.e., the period from 2010–2012 compared to the period from 2000–2002.

Method: The study is based on data from the IMS Disease Analyzer database, which enables access to anonymous data from registered physicians. Data from 102 gynecological practices were available for the present study. The study included women aged 20 to 45 with breast cancer.

Results: A total of 179 pregnant women were included in this study from 2000–2002 and 2010–2012. 65 pregnancies were recorded in the period from 2000–2002, 114 pregnancies from 2010–2012. The time interval from the breast cancer diagnosis to pregnancy (analysed time period was 10 years) was 896 days (SD: 690) in the period from 2000–2002 and 552 days (SD: 696) in the period from 2010–2012, (p < 0.001).

Discussion: A large number of studies investigating the effect of pregnancy on the risk of relapse and the survival rate of women who have previously suffered from breast cancer have come to the conclusion that this effect is non-existent or even positive. The results of the present study demonstrate that these findings have been considered when advising such women with regard to their risk of relapse.

Limitations: Our analyses include several limitations. No valid information on the TNM status, cancer stage and survival time were available in the database. No pregnancy outcomes were investigated.

Conclusion: There was a significant increase in pregnancies within the first two years after the breast cancer diagnosis. These data are consistent with the intensified consultations after the introduction of the FertiPROTEKT network.

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