

Health-related quality of life and patient satisfaction of filipinos after breast conservation surgery and intraoperative radiotherapy

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Statement of the Problem: In the Philippines, intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT) is a new treatment option for selected early breast cancer as an alternative to conventional external beam radiotherapy (EBRT). This single-institution study aims to assess the health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and satisfaction of patients who underwent breast conservation therapy.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: This is a descriptive, cross-sectional, analytic study. Sixty female patients 45 years old and above who underwent unilateral partial mastectomy and radiation treatment (IORT only vs IORT+EBRT vs EBRT only) between March 2019 to March 2022 at a private tertiary hospital were asked to complete the validated Breast-Q BCT module questionnaire and a study-specific questionnaire to assess overall patient satisfaction.

Findings: Nineteen patients underwent IORT only, twelve patients underwent IORT+EBRT, while twenty-nine patients underwent EBRT only. Median time from the last day of radiation therapy was 20 months (range 1 to 40 months). Analysis of the results showed that patients treated with IORT as a single treatment have more favorable HRQOL in terms of physical, psychosocial and sexual well-being, with notably the least adverse effects of radiation. However, patients who underwent IORT+EBRT showed a trend toward less favorable HRQOL, mainly in terms of impact on work and satisfaction with the breasts. The groups were comparable in terms of cancer-worry and fatigue. There were significant difference in terms of overall patient satisfaction favoring the IORT only treatment.

Conclusion & Significance: Single treatment with IORT is a more favorable alternative to EBRT in terms of HRQOL and patient satisfaction in carefully selected early breast cancer patients.

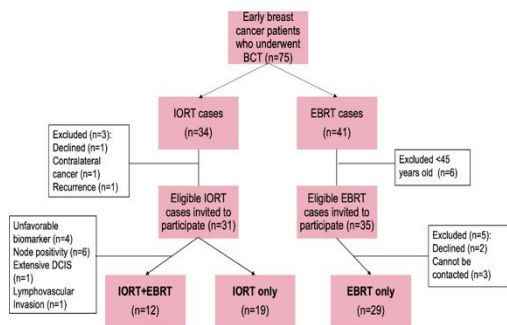


Figure 1: BCT= Breast conserving surgery; IORT= intraoperative radiotherapy; EBRT= external beam radiotherapy

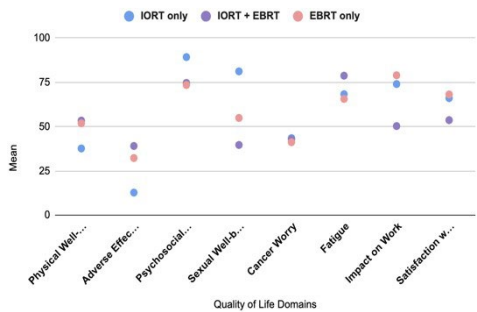


Figure 2: IORT= intraoperative radiotherapy; EBRT= external beam radiotherapy

Biography

Angeli Andrea Cocos-Alcantara is a breast and general surgeon practicing in the Philippines. Her research work is dedicated to improving the lives of breast cancer patients and advancing treatment to eliminate mortality from the disease.

Received: February 10, 2025; **Accepted:** February 13, 2025; **Published:** July 25, 2025