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Shahla Masood, MD, Editor

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The Breast Journal

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

The Breast Journal is a multidisciplinary publication with an equal partnership of different specialties and a focused approach toward enhancing our understanding of breast disease. The Breast Journal's editorial philosophy recognizes the increasing cooperation and interdependence of specialists who diagnose and treat diseases of the breast.

Manuscripts will be considered in the form of editorials, original articles, first time case reports, short communications, breast images, and letters to the editor. Submission of a paper implies that it reports unpublished work, except in abstract form, and is not being submitted simultaneously to another publication.

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COMMENTARY





Impact of regular Breast Self-Examination on breast cancer size, stage, and mortality in Thailand

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The incidence of breast cancer in Thailand has increased during the past decade. Besides, most of the patient present with the locally advanced stage. 1 Mammography has not reached all women in Thailand. Breast self-examination (BSE) is simple and feasible for breast cancer screening among developing countries comparing to mammography and clinical breast examination (CBE).²

We evaluate a cohort study of 1 906 697 women without a history of breast cancer aged 30-70 years who participated in a breast cancer awareness program in Thailand. We excluded women with known breast cancer or in process of investigation. BSE program in this study was shown in Figure 1. The village health volunteers (VHV) helped reminding the cohorts to perform BSE regularly through the use of BSE record booklet. The innovative BSE record booklet contained the instruction to help cohort to perform BSE precisely and record monthly in the booklet which was verified by the VHV and confirmed by health personnel. The participants had been followed up from October 2012 to September 2017. The participants who reached the regularity (at least once in every 2 months) of BSE within 12 months before diagnosis were defined as regular BSE. When abnormalities presented, the participants were referred for screening by CBE then confirmed by imaging and pathology. The data of BSE and Breast Cancer Individual (BCI) Record Form were collected and analyzed. There were 2,956 women diagnosed with breast cancer in this study (Figure 2). Breast cancer size and stage were diagnosed according to the AJCC 7th staging system. We categorized tumor size into small (≤2 cm) and large (>2 cm) and stage into early (0-II) and late (III-IV). Death due to breast cancer was also recorded.

Of 1 906 697 women who participated in this study, 61% were aged < 50 years. 72% of participants performed BSE regularly. During 5 years of follow-up, 2956 participants were diagnosed with breast cancer. The average incidence rate per year was 31 (range 27.5-33.5) per 100 000 women aged between 30 and 70 years old (Table 1). 97.9% of them found a breast lump themselves and were sent for confirmation by imaging and histopathology. The other presenting symptoms were breast pain (12.8%) and unequal breast size (7.9%). Some of participants (1.2%) did not have any signs or symptoms. Data on breast cancer size were available for 2,031 patients (68.7% of all patients with breast cancer). The risk of a large tumor size in nonregular BSE patients was 1.348-fold higher than regular BSE patients. Data on breast cancer stage were available for 2659 patients (90.0% of all patients with breast cancer). Most of the patients were diagnosed with stage II, (47.9%) and 31.5% were diagnosed with stage III-IV. The risk of late-stage breast cancer in nonregular BSE patients was 1.319-fold higher than in regular BSE. Of 2956 patients, 176 (5.9%) died during 5 years of follow-up. The survival rate of regular BSE patients was significantly higher than nonregular BSE

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FIGURE 1 The process of data collection and analysis

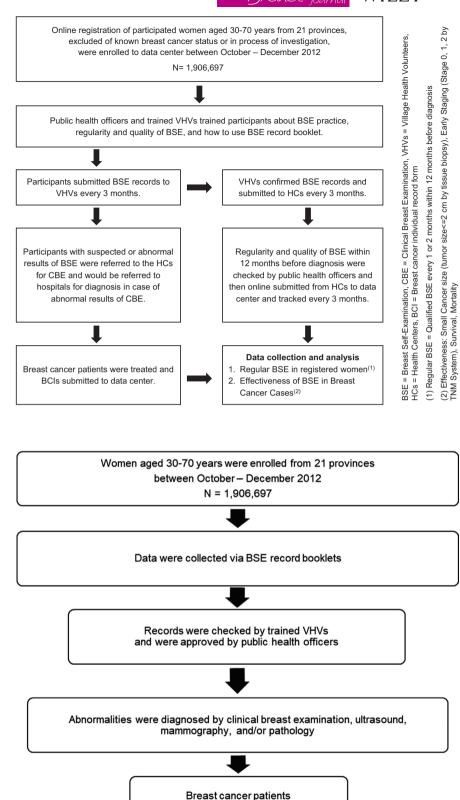


FIGURE 2 Flow chart of breast cancer diagnosis

patients (95.7% vs 92.6%, P-value < .001). Nonregular BSE patients had a 1.702-fold higher incidence of mortality than regular BSE patients (OR = 1.702; 95%CI = 1.235-2.347; P-value < .05) (Table 2).

This study has higher rate of regular BSE than others ³⁻⁵ because of the strong collaboration from VHV and BSE booklet. Most of women who developed breast cancer from BCI record found breast lump themselves. Our findings are consistent with the others ^{6,7}; we

N = 2.956

TABLE 1 Participants characteristics

	n (%)
Participants	1 906 697 (100)
BSE data	1 754 310 (92.0)
Regular BSE	1 262 241 (72.0)
Breast cancer patients	2956 (0.2)
2013	631 (21.3)
2014	582 (19.7)
2015	579 (19.6)
2016	639 (21.6)
2017	525 (17.8)
Incidence rate/year (per 100 000)	31.0
Size ≤ 2 cm	843 (41.5)
Stage 0-II	1820 (68.5)
Breast cancer mortality	176 (5.9)

TABLE 2 Breast self-examination and breast cancer size, stage, and mortality

Size (N = 1938)				Stage (N = 2557)				Mortality (N = 2804)				
Breast self- examination	≤2 cm n (%)	>2 cm n (%)	Odds ratio (95%CI)	P-value	Early n (%)	Late n (%)	Odds ratio (95%CI)	P-value	Alive n (%)	Dead n (%)	Odds ratio (95%CI)	P-value
Regular	602 (43.1)	794 (56.9)	1.348 (1.090-1.667)	<.01	1300 (70.3)	550 (29.7)	1.319 (1.094-1.591)	<.01	1901 (95.0)	100 (5.0)	1.702 (1.235-2.347)	<.05
Nonregular	202 (37.3)	340 (62.7)			458 (64.8)	249 (35.2)			737 (91.8)	66 (8.2)		

reported a significantly higher proportion of smaller tumor size, earlier stage, and better survival rate in regular BSE practiced women rather than nonpracticing women.

In the developed countries, they recommend women aged 50-74 years should have mammography screening once every 2-3 years, ^{8,9} which indicates that mammography could not cover all age groups. Despite the efficacy of BSE to decrease breast cancer mortality is largely unproven. This large Thai cohort study indicates that regular BSE recorded in the BSE record booklet and monitored by VHV is effective for the early detection of breast cancer.

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ผลกระทบของการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองอย่างสม่ำเสมอต่อขนาดก้อน ระยะ และการเสียชีวิต ของมะเร็งเต้านมในประเทศไทย

(Impact of Regular Breast Self Examination on Breast Cancer Size, Stage and Mortality in Thailand)

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อุบัติการณ์ของมะเร็งเต้านมในประเทศไทยได้เพิ่มขึ้นอย่างมากในช่วง 10 กว่าปีที่ผ่านมา โดยที่ผู้ป่วย มะเร็งเต้านมส่วนใหญ่เป็นการพบในระยะหลัง (Locally Advanced) และสตรีไทยยังไม่สามารถเข้าถึงการ ตรวจแมมโมแกรมได้อย่างทั่วถึง การตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองเป็นวิธีที่ง่าย และเป็นวิธีการคัดกรองมะเร็งเต้านม ที่ปฏิบัติได้จริงในประเทศกำลังพัฒนาเปรียบเทียบกับการตรวจด้วยแมมโมแกรม หรือการตรวจเต้านมโดย บุคลากรสาธารณสุข (Clinical Breast Examination หรือ CBE) 2

การประเมินผลการดำเนินงานครั้งนี้เป็นการศึกษาไปข้างหน้า (cohort) โดยขึ้นทะเบียนสตรีอายุ 30 – 70 ปี ที่ไม่ได้เป็นมะเร็งเต้านม เพื่อเข้าร่วมโครงการสืบสานพระราชปณิธานสมเด็จย่า ต้านภัยมะเร็งเต้านม จำนวน 1,906,697 คน การดำเนินการเกี่ยวกับการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองสรุปไว้ในรูปที่ 1 อาสาสาธารณสุขประจำ หมู่บ้าน (อสม.) มีบทบาทในการกระตุ้นเตือนให้สตรีที่เข้าร่วมโครงการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองอย่างสม่ำเสมอ โดยใช้สมุดบันทึกการตรวจเต้านมตนเอง ซึ่งจะสอนวิธีการตรวจอย่างถูกต้องและจดบันทึกการตรวจเต้านม ด้วยตนเองในแต่ละเดือน อสม.จะตรวจสอบการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองว่าสม่ำเสมอหรือไม่ โดยดูจากสมุด บันทึกฯ ดังกล่าว จากนั้นส่งข้อมูลการตรวจให้กับเจ้าหน้าที่ รพ.สต.เพื่อบันทึกและส่งข้อมูลไปยังศูนย์ข้องมูล ของโครงการฯ ทุก 3 เดือน จากการติดตามผู้เข้าร่วมโครงการระยะที่ 1 ตั้งแต่เดือนตุลาคม พ.ศ. 2555 จนถึง เดือนกันยายน พ.ศ. 2560 โดยใช้การติดตามความสม่ำเสมอของการตรวจเต้านมตนเอง เมื่อพบความผิดปกติที่ เต้านม จะได้รับการตรวจและส่งต่อตามลำดับ เริ่มจากการตรวจเต้านมโดยเจ้าหน้าที่สาธารณสุข (Clinical Breast Examination หรือ CBE) ตรวจทางรังสีและตรวจชิ้นเนื้อทางพยาธิวิทยา เพื่อวินิจฉัยมะเร็งเต้านม ผู้ที่ได้รับวินิจฉัยมะเร็งเต้านมจะบันทึกข้อมูลในแบบฟอร์ม Breast Cancer Individual : BCI โดยจะทำการ บันทึก ประเภทของมะเร็งเต้านม ขนาด (Size) ของก้อนมะเร็งเต้านม (วัดจากผลชิ้นเนื้อ) และระยะ (Stage) ของมะเร็งเต้านม ร่วมกับการบันทึก วันที่เสียชีวิต (กรณีเสียชีวิต) เพื่อหาระยะเวลารอดชีวิต ฐานข้อมูลผู้ป่วย มะเร็งเต้านม จะนำไปจับคู่กับฐานข้อมูลความสม่ำเสมอของการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเอง ซึ่งส่งเป็นประจำ ทุก 3 เดือน โดยนิยามความสม่ำเสมอของการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเอง คือ ตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองอย่างน้อย 2 เดือนครั้ง ในช่วง 12 เดือนก่อนวันที่ได้รับการวินิจฉัยว่าเป็นมะเร็งเต้านม

¹มูลนิธิถันยรักษ์ในพระราชูปถัมภ์สมเด็จพระศรีนครินทราบรมราชชนนี, ² วิทยาลัยวิทยาศาสตร์สาธารณสุข จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย, ³กรมอนามัย กระทรวงสาธารณสุข , ⁴คณะวิทยาศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่ , ⁵คณะแพทยศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่

ภาพที่ 1 กระบวนการในการเก็บรวบรวมและวิเคราะห์ข้อมูล



ภาพที่ 2 Flow Chart การวิเคราะห์มะเร็งเต้านม



จากการติดตาม Cohort พบว่าผู้ป่วยมะเร็งเต้านมจำนวน 2,956 ราย ดังภาพที่ 2 ขนาดของก้อน และระยะของมะเร็งเต้านมจะใช้ตามเกณฑ์ของ AJCC7th staging System โดยนิยามก้อนมะเร็งขนาดเล็ก คือ ก้อนที่มีขนาดเล็กคือก้อนที่มีขนาดเท่ากับหรือไม่เกิน 2 เซนติเมตร ก้อนมะเร็งขนาดใหญ่ คือ ขนาดมากกว่า 2 เซนติเมตร มะเร็งระยะแรก คือ ระยะ 0, 1, 2 ส่วนมะเร็งระยะหลัง คือ ระยะที่ 3 และ 4 ตามระบบ TNM



TABLE 1 Participants characteristics

	n (%)
Participants	1 906 697 (100)
BSE data	1 754 310 (92.0)
Regular BSE	1 262 241 (72.0)
Breast cancer patients	2956 (0.2)
2013	631 (21.3)
2014	582 (19.7)
2015	579 (19.6)
2016	639 (21.6)
2017	525 (17.8)
Incidence rate/year (per 100 000)	31.0
Size ≤ 2 cm	843 (41.5)
Stage 0-II	1820 (68.5)
Breast cancer mortality	176 (5.9)

ในจำนวนผู้เข้าร่วมโครงการ 1,906,697 ราย ร้อยละ 61 อายุน้อยกว่า 50 ปี ร้อยละ 72 ตรวจเต้านม ด้วยตนเองสม่ำเสมอ และการติดตาม 5 ปี พบมะเร็งเต้านม 2,956 ราย คิดเป็นอุบัติการณ์ 31 (พิสัย 27.5 – 33.5) ต่อแสนต่อปี (ตารางที่ 1) จำนวนผู้ที่เป็นมะเร็งเต้านม 2,956 ราย ร้อยละ 97.9 มาด้วยเรื่องก้อนที่เต้า นม ร้อยละ 12.8 มาด้วยเรื่องปวดที่เต้านม ร้อยละ 7.9 มาด้วยเรื่องขนาดของเต้านมทั้ง 2 ข้างไม่เท่ากัน ร้อยละ 1.2 ไม่มีอาการหรืออาการแสดง แต่วินิจฉัยจากการคัดกรองมะเร็งเต้านมด้วยแมมโมแกรม ผู้ป่วยมะเร็ง เต้านมจำนวน 2,031 ราย (คิดเป็นร้อยละ 68.7 ของผู้ป่วยมะเร็งเต้านมทั้งหมด) ที่ทราบขนาดของก้อนมะเร็ง จากผลชิ้นเนื้อ โดยกลุ่มที่ตรวจเต้านมไม่สม่ำเสมอ พบก้อนขนาดใหญ่เป็น 1.348 เท่า เมื่อเทียบกับกลุ่มที่ตรวจ เต้านมด้วยตนเองสม่ำเสมอ ผู้ป่วยมะเร็งเต้านมจำนวน 2,659 ราย (ร้อยละ 90 ของผู้ป่วยมะเร็งเต้านมทั้งหมด) ทราบระยะของมะเร็งเต้านม โดยร้อยละ 47.9 เป็นมะเร็งเต้านมระยะที่ 2 และร้อยละ 31.5 เป็นมะเร็งเต้านมระยะที่ 3-4 โดยกลุ่มที่ตรวจเต้านมไม่สม่ำเสมอ พบมะเร็งเต้านมระยะหลัง เป็น 1.319 เท่า เมื่อเทียบกับกลุ่มที่ตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองสม่ำเสมอ ในจำนวนผู้ป่วยมะเร็งเต้านมทั้งหมด 2,956 ราย เสียชีวิต ในช่วงที่ติดตาม 5 ปี จำนวน 176 ราย (อัตราป่วยตาย ร้อยละ 5.95) เมื่อหาอัตราการรอดชีวิตด้วยวิธี Kaplan กลุ่มที่ตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองอย่างสม่ำเสมอมีอัตราการรอดชีวิต ร้อยละ 95.7 สูงกว่ากลุ่ม ที่ตรวจเต้านมไม่สม่ำเสมอซึ่งเท่ากับร้อยละ 92.6 อย่างมีนัยสำคัญทางสถิติ ผู้ป่วยมะเร็งเต้านมที่ตรวจเต้านม ด้วยตนเองไม่สม่ำเสมอ มีอัตราการป่วยตาย เป็น 1.702 เท่า (95% CI = 1.235-2.347) เมื่อเปรียบเทียบกับกลุ่ม ที่ตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองสม่ำเสมอ โดยแตกต่างอย่างมีนัยสำคัญทางสถิติ (ตารางที่ 2)

TABLE 2 Breast self-examination and breast cancer size, stage, and mortality

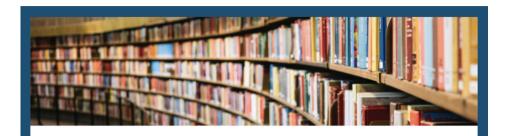
	Size (N = 1938)			Stage (N = 2557)				Mortality (N = 2804)				
Breast self- examination	≤2 cm n (%)	>2 cm n (%)	Odds ratio (95%CI)	P-value	Early n (%)	Late n (%)	Odds ratio (95%CI)	<i>P</i> -value	Alive n (%)	Dead n (%)	Odds ratio (95%CI)	P-value
Regular	602 (43.1)	794 (56.9)	1.348 (1.090-1.667)	<.01	1300 (70.3)	550 (29.7)	1.319 (1.094-1.591)	<.01	1901 (95.0)	100 (5.0)	1.702 (1.235-2.347)	<.05
Nonregular	202 (37.3)	340 (62.7)			458 (64.8)	249 (35.2)			737 (91.8)	66 (8.2)		

การศึกษานี้มีอัตราการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองอย่างสม่ำเสมอสูงกว่าการศึกษาอื่น ๆ ³⁻⁵ เป็นเพราะ ความร่วมมือของการทำงานของ อสม. กับการใช้สมุดการตรวจเต้านมตนเอง และจากข้อมูลที่บันทึกใน BCI record พบว่าส่วนใหญ่มาด้วยก้อนที่สามารถคลำพบได้ด้วยตนเอง ซึ่งสอดคล้องกับการศึกษาอื่นๆ ⁶⁻⁷ รายงานจาก การศึกษานี้พบว่ากลุ่มที่ตรวจเต้านมตนเองสม่ำเสมอ มีสัดส่วนของการพบก้อนมะเร็งขนาดเล็ก มะเร็งระยะแรก และอัตราการรอดชีวิตสูงกว่ากลุ่มที่ตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองไม่สม่ำเสมออย่างมีนัยสำคัญทางสถิติ

ประเทศที่พัฒนาแล้ว แนะนำให้สตรีอายุ 50 – 74 ปี คัดกรองมะเร็งเต้านมด้วยการตรวจแมมโมแกรม 2 – 3 ปีครั้งเนื่องจากการตรวจด้วยแมมโมแกรมไม่สามารถครอบคลุมสตรีได้ทุกกลุ่มอายุ ก่อนหน้านั้นยังไม่ได้ มีหลักฐานเชิงประจักษ์ว่าการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองมีประสิทธิภาพในการลดอัตราการตาย การศึกษาของ ประเทศไทยที่ใช้กลุ่มศึกษาที่ใหญ่มากครั้งนี้ ได้บ่งชี้ว่าการตรวจเต้านมด้วยตนเองอย่างสม่ำเสมอโดยการใช้ สมุดบันทึกการตรวจเต้านมตนเองและกำกับติดตามโดย อสม. มีประสิทธิภาพในการค้นพบมะเร็งในระยะ เริ่มแรก

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