

The aim of the NABCOP is to evaluate process of care and outcomes for women, aged 70 years and over, diagnosed with breast cancer in England & Wales, compared with women aged 50-69 years.



## Diagnosis and treatment in 2019 & 2020: England and Wales

Results from the English and Welsh Cancer Datasets (comparing diagnosis and treatment among women aged 50+ years), and the NABCOP 2020 Organisational Audit.

Comparing women diagnosed between 1 April and 31 July 2020, with the same period in 2019:



→ There was a **49% reduction** in the **number** of women **diagnosed**.

→ **90% fewer** women were **diagnosed via screening**, reflecting local (in England) and national (in Wales) pausing of routine breast screening services (due to COVID-19) - most visible in women aged 50-69 years.

→ **22% fewer** women were **diagnosed by non-screening pathways**.



→ There was a **60% reduction** in the **number** of women having **surgery**.

→ but the overall percentage having surgery remained high (**80%** in 2020; **86%** in 2019).



→ National radiotherapy data showed an increase in use of HFRT; **72%** of women **having radiotherapy had HFRT** (0% in 2019).



**74%** of NHS breast units responding to the OA reported using hypofractionated radiotherapy during the COVID-19 pandemic and were planning to continue.



**1 in 5** NHS breast units responding to the OA reported "major concerns" about 'reduced number of core staff' and 'numbers of patients requiring assessment & treatment', when asked about the biggest challenges to services returning to pre-COVID-19 levels of workload.



## Outcomes following treatment

Among women diagnosed between 2014-2018:



**29%** of women in England having adjuvant chemotherapy for EIBC had at least one unplanned overnight hospital admission related to a side effect.



**15%** of women who had initial BCS for DCIS / EIBC in England and Wales had a reoperation within 3 months.



## Endocrine therapy prescriptions

Among women diagnosed with estrogen receptor positive invasive breast cancer in England between 2014-2017, we found:



**90%** had an ET prescription dispensed in 2018, recorded in the Primary Care Prescription Database\*. \*For this report, PCPD data was only provided for 2018



ET use did not vary by age or frailty.



There was geographical variation in tamoxifen prescribing.

## Glossary

**Endocrine therapy:** anti-estrogen therapy used to treat hormone positive breast cancer.

**Hypofractionated radiotherapy:** a radiotherapy regimen where the total dose is divided into larger portions, and given over fewer days than the standard regimen.

## Abbreviations

**BC:** breast cancer

**BCS:** breast conserving surgery

**DCIS:** ductal carcinoma in situ

**EIBC:** early invasive breast cancer

**ET:** endocrine therapy

**HFRT:** hypofractionated radiotherapy

**OA:** Organisational Audit

**PCPD:** Primary Care

Prescription

Database