Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Delays in Western Jamaica

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KEYWORDS	breast cancer, diagnostic delay, treatment access

OBJECTIVE

Measure delays from symptom onset to treatment and identify contributing factors.

METHODS

The mixed-methods study reviewed 87 patient records at Cornwall Regional Hospital and explored reasons for delay qualitatively.

RESULTS

Mean time from symptom onset to treatment was 44.4 weeks. Overall, 57.5% exceeded six months. The mean health-system interval was 26.8 weeks, with substantial time before hospital assessment and between biopsy and histology.

CONCLUSION

The authors recommended faster referrals and stronger access to public diagnostic services.