SB03

A STUDY ON BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC AND DISEASE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANCER DIAGNOSED SYRIAN REFUGEES TREATED IN BORDER CITY OF TURKEY, SANLIURFA; A HOSPITAL BASED RETROSPECTIVE CASE SERIES STUDY

Yasemin Bakkal Temi (Department of Medical Oncology, Sanliurfa Research and Training Hospital, Sanliurfa,Turkey)
Ali Murat Sedef (Department of Medical Oncology, Sanliurfa Research and Training Hospital, Sanliurfa,Turkey)
Serkan Gökçay (Department of Medical Oncology, Sanliurfa Research and Training Hospital, Sanliurfa,Turkey)
Hüseyin Mertsoylu (Department of Medical Oncology, Baskent University Medical Faculty, Adana, Turkey)
Fatih Köse (Department of Medical Oncology, Baskent University Medical Faculty, Adana, Turkey)

Introduction - Purpose: The Syrian refugee migration is one of the largest humanitarian crises in recent history. The influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey presents an immense burden to the Turkish health system, particularly in treating cancer diseases. The purpose of this study is to determine the distribution of cancer among Syrian refugees and the use of health care services
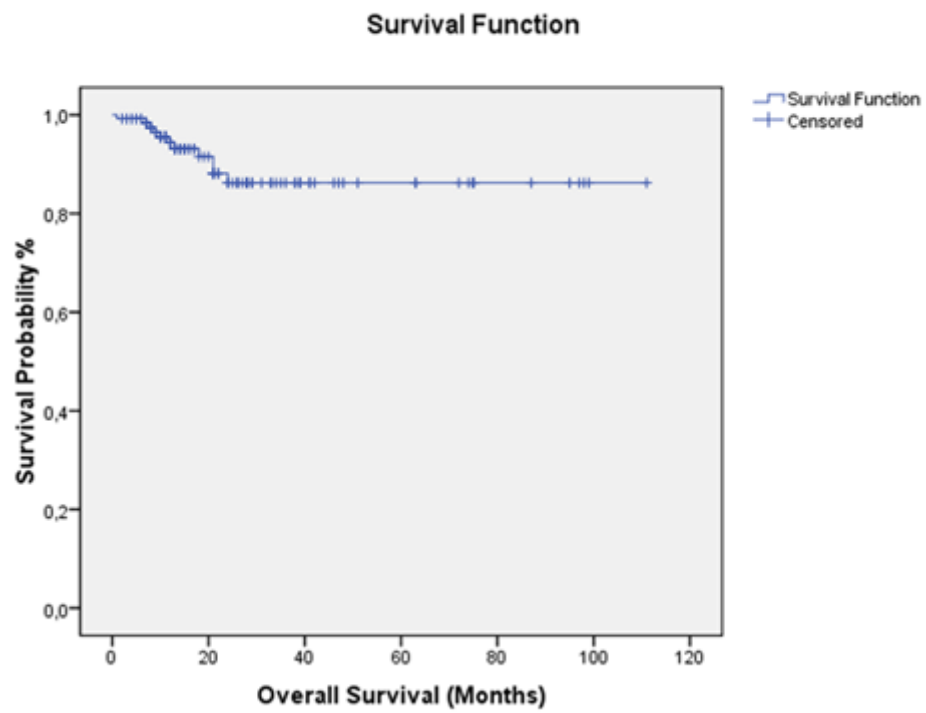
Methods - Tools: This study was designed as a hospital-based retrospective observational case-series study and the purpose of the study was to evaluate the clinicopathological characteristics of the 134 cancer patients from Syrian refugees.

Findings: Median age was 47.5 years old (range 18-80). Out of the 134 patients, 102 (76.1%) patients were female. The most common cancer type was breast cancer (n=57, 42.5%). The second one was gynecological cancers (n:14, 10.4%). Majority of patients were diagnosed at stage IV (n:60, 44.8%). Most of the patients were able to adapt chemotherapy seamlessly (n:99, 73.9%). (n:99, 73.9%). The majority of patients admitted to our center were staying at refugee camp (n:91, 67.9%) and other patients admitted from their home (n:43, 32.1%). After a median follow-up of 14 (range 1-111) months, 11 (8.2%) patients were death. One and two year survival rate of the whole group were 93% and 86%, respectively (Figure-1).. Treatment modalities consisted of neoadjuvant chemotherapy, surgical resection, and radiotherapy in 12 (9%), 94 (70.1%), and 53 (39.6%) patients, respectively. There were 12 (9%) patients developed grade 3-4 toxicity and the most common side effect was neutropenia (n:8, 6%). The compliance rate for the patients staying in the camp or home were 71% (n=65) and 79% (n=34), respectively. Statistical analysis failed to show significant relation between the living site (either camp or house) and compliance rate of the patients (p:0.347). Additionally, there was no significant relation between living site and major toxicities (grade 3-4). (p:0.09)

Discussion: It is thought that this study is important because there is no study in literature. Our data showed that Syrian refugee cancer patients consisted of mostly women and related cancer like breast and gynecological cancer. They have difficulty to reach screening program and early diagnosis but can reach to whole health system facilities without no difference from Turkish population when they diagnosed as cancer..

Keywords: Syria, Refugee, Cancer, Sanliurfa

figure-1

Survival Function

overall Survival