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## Diagnostic evaluation of pregnancy associated breast cancer

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Pregnancy-associated breast cancer is the breast cancer detected during pregnancy and within one year postpartum. It is a rare and challenging problem. Diagnosis of Pregnancy-Associated Breast Cancer (PABC) is frequently delayed, due to the difficulty in characterizing tumors in the gravid breast, less general awareness and reluctance of patients as well as physicians to perform diagnostic imaging or intervention in pregnancy. PABCs are commonly found at advanced stage, have higher recurrence and mortality rates relative to non PABC. Delay in diagnosis is one of the major causes of aggressive presentation of PABC. The most significant etiological factor is that most of the masses presenting in this period are benign. Multidisciplinary approach is mandatory for management of PABC which depends upon the gestational stage at which cancer is detected. This article highlights radiological appearances of PABC and defines diagnostic approach for the evaluation of palpable lumps in pregnant and lactating women. To evaluate radiological appearance of pregnancy associated breast cancer on various imaging modalities along with determination of diagnostic accuracy of these imaging modalities in PABC. Study would be conducted in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology of Shaukat Khanum Hospital and Research Centre Lahore. All breast cancers diagnosed at our institution during pregnancy or during the 12 months post-partum will be reviewed from 1st April 2008 to 30th April 2018, describing the radiological as well as histological features of pregnancy-associated breast cancer emphasizing diagnostic difficulties. Since all the patients who get enrolled in the inpatient of SKMCH have already consented at the time of entry to be the part of any research and study that's been done in the hospital, no formal consent has been taken. Their data would be retrieved from the system for the last ten years. Their sonographic, mammographic and MRI features would be assessed by the multiple radiologists of the department. Radiological interpretations along with histological features, duration of symptoms as well as associated risk factors shall be recorded on the pro forma as given in Appendix. These findings would be compiled and results finalized.

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