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Assessment of Breast Cancer Diagnosis Process at Gaza Strip

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Background: Breast cancer is the most frequent cancer in women worldwide, with an estimated one million new cases diagnosed each year and it is considered as the largest cancer-related cause of death among women worldwide.

Aim of the study: To assess breast cancer diagnosis process at Gaza strip.

Methodology: The study is designed as a descriptive, retrospective study. The study population is women diagnosed with breast cancer from May to October 2021. The sample size was 100 patients enrolled in the oncology department at Al Rantissi, Alshifa and Gaza European hospitals. A questionnaire was designed to fulfill the objectives of the study and the researcher filled the questionnaire through patients face to face interview and patients' records.

Results: The study showed that, Malignant findings were found throughout mammography, Ultrasound, biopsy and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), sensitivity test revealed 80%, 89%, 96% and 100% respectively. The most common signs and symptoms include 91% of breast mass, 59% mass under axilla, 24% with different breast size, and 11% pain. The study also showing a



significant agreement between mammography, U/S, biopsy and MRI; and no significant relationship between participants' delay and demographic characteristics.

Conclusion: The study shows the role of MRI and biopsy findings in diagnosing breast cancer which serve as a cornerstone for improving breast cancer diagnosis process. Mammography, U/S and biopsy have a significant role in diagnosing breast cancer and the most sensitive method is MRI with limited role of medical laboratory tests. Mammography and U/S should be conducted together in order to confirm the results.

Research Keywords: Breast Cancer, Mammography, Ultrasound, Biopsy, Malignant, MRI, Gaza, Palestine.