

Breast Cancer

New Cases



Amy Murrell, M.D.

Breast cancer remains the most commonly treated malignancy at McLeod Regional Medical Center. Nationally, it is the most common cancer in women and the second most common cancer cause of death. Because of its widespread prevalence, it has had a personal impact

on nearly every American. Fortunately, there have been significant improvements in diagnosis, treatment, and survival over the last several decades. Breast cancer is now frequently diagnosed at a much earlier stage, in part due to increased awareness, as well as improved imaging techniques. This has considerably improved survival and allowed for less radical surgery. There have also been great strides made in chemotherapeutic options, particularly in regards to hormonal therapy.

In 2005, there were 203 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed at MRMC. This represents 21% of the total cancer cases. As seen in graph 1, 200 (98.5%) were women and 3 (1.5%) were men. One hundred and twenty-two (60%) were Caucasian while 81 (40%) were African American (graph 2). The majority of patients were diagnosed between the ages of 50 and 59 (32%) while the second highest age group was between the ages of 60 and 69 (28%), as demonstrated in graph 3.

Comparison of stage at diagnosis of breast cancer patients in 2005 to that of 1995 reveals a significantly earlier stage of diagnosis. In 2005, 69% of patients had either in-situ or local disease. In 1995, only 50% of patients were early stage disease at the time of diagnosis (graph 4). In 2005, only 1% of patients had distant disease at the time of diagnosis, compared to 9% in 1995.

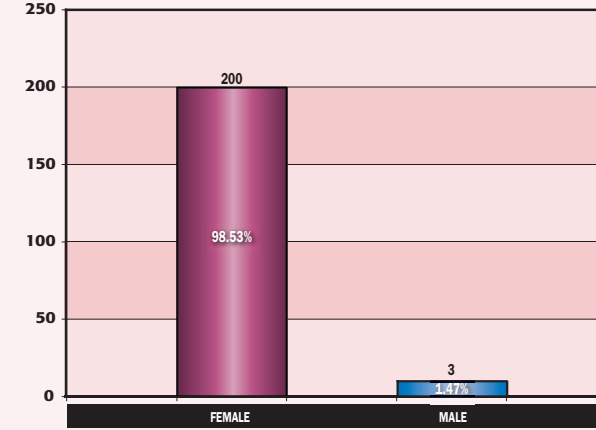
The surgical treatment of breast cancer in 2005 was also significantly different from the treatment delivered in 1996. Previously, 74% of patients with node negative disease had a mastectomy, while 26% had a lumpectomy. In 2005, the rates of mastectomy and lumpectomy were roughly equal (graph 5).

Overall survival of early stage breast cancer is extremely high, both at McLeod and nationally. In-situ and local disease have 7-year survival rates at McLeod of 90% and 88% respectively (graph 6). Survival declines significantly with regional disease which is indicated by the 7-year survival for Stage III disease of 45%. Patients with metastatic disease have very limited survival.

There is no prevention for breast cancer, but continued improvements in diagnosis and treatment are dramatically improving survival nationally and locally at McLeod Health.

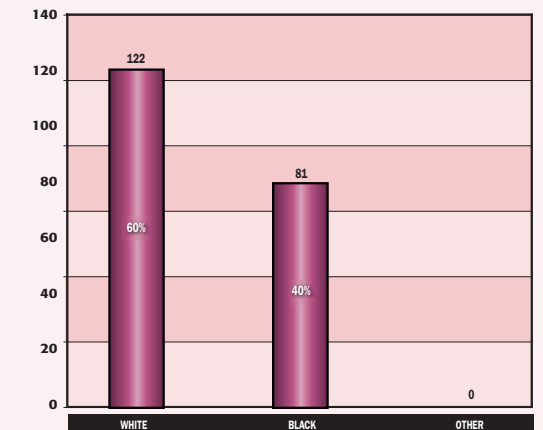
—Amy Murrell, M.D.
Pee Dee Surgical Group

Breast Cancer Diagnosis by Sex
2005



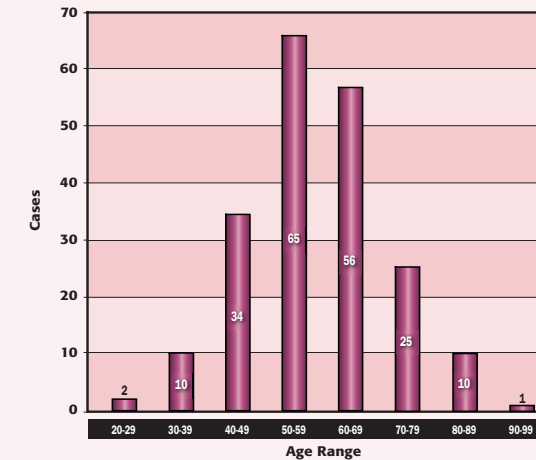
Graph 1

Breast Cancer Diagnosis by Race
2005



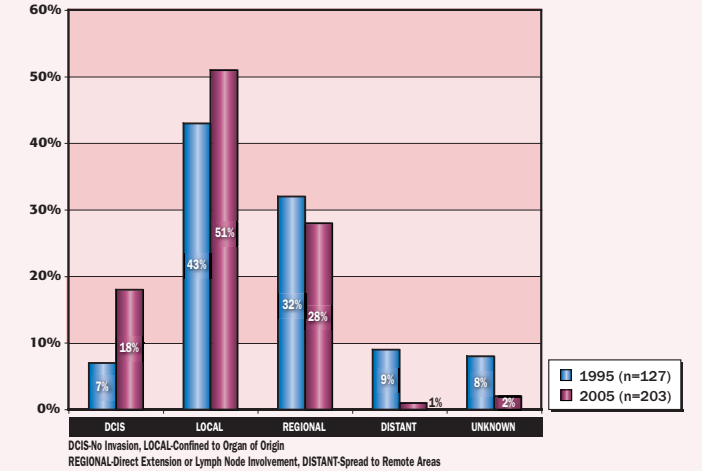
Graph 2

Breast Cancer Diagnosis by Age
2005



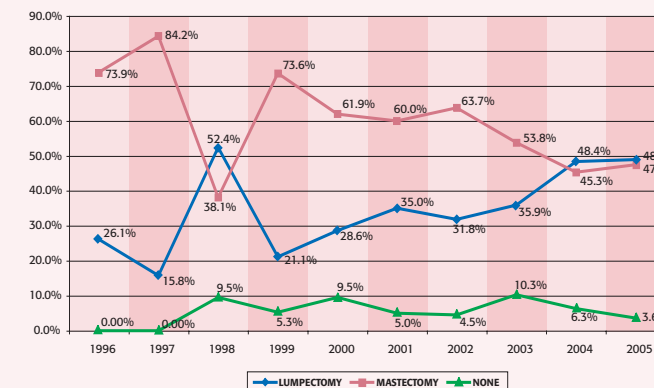
Graph 3

Breast Cancer Stage at Diagnosis
1995 vs 2005



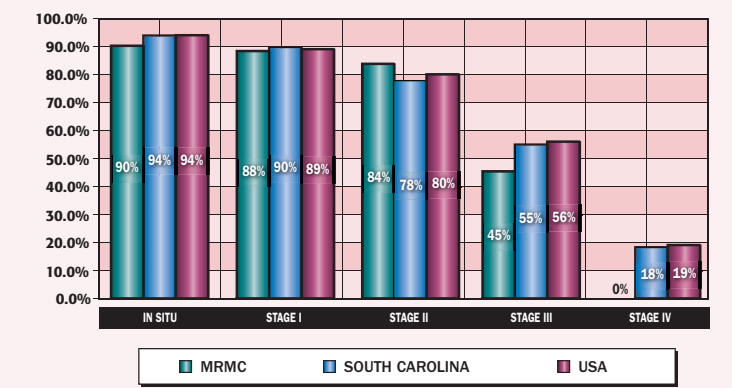
Graph 4

Lumpectomy vs. Mastectomy as Treatment for Node Negative Breast Cancer
1996-2005



Graph 5

Overall 7-Year Survival Rates by AJCC Stage for Breast Cancer Diagnosed in 1998 Compared to South Carolina and the NCDB



Graph 6