

# FAILURE OF CHEMOTHERAPY TO PROLONG SURVIVAL IN A GROUP OF PATIENTS WITH METASTATIC BREAST CANCER

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## Abstract

Overall survival of patients with primary breast cancer has not improved in the past ten years, despite increasing use of multiple-drug chemotherapy for treatment of metastases. Furthermore, there has been no improvement in survival from first metastasis, and survival may even have been shortened in some patients given chemotherapy. Chemotherapy probably does prolong survival in some patients, and further studies should be undertaken to identify these patients in advance... Actuarial survival analysis ... reveals no prolongation in overall survival, despite the increased use of multiple-drug chemotherapy for metastatic disease. The survival of the 78 patients who received chemotherapy from first detection of metastases (including single-agent chemotherapy) was no better than that of the 80 who did not receive chemotherapy. There was also no improvement in survival for those who received multiple-drug chemotherapy (66 patients)... The fact that regressions of breast cancer had no influence on overall survival must reflect the inadequacy of present-day chemotherapy.