Factors influencing the stages of breast cancer at the time of diagnosis in Thai women

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Summary
Background: Early diagnosis of breast cancer leads to early treatment therefore improving women's health. However, most Thai women are diagnosed at a late stage.

Objective: This cross-sectional correlational study was designed to explore factors influencing the diagnosis of early stage breast cancer in Thai women.

Method: Thai women (n = 400) newly diagnosed breast cancer at all clinical stages from public hospitals in Bangkok Metropolitan completed a questionnaire about knowledge of breast cancer and screening. The questionnaire addressed pre-diagnosis data about: (1) health care provider's recommendations to undertake breast screening, (2) health coverage for mammography (MM) costs and (3) regularity of breast screening behaviors in terms of breast self-examination (BSE), clinical breast examination (CBE) and MM including stage breast cancer at diagnosis. Data analysis was determined by PASW Statistics version 18 as univariate and multivariate logistic regression.

Results: Health coverage for MM costs and all three behaviors were significantly related to and could predict the early stages breast cancer at diagnosis (p < 0.05): health coverage for MM costs (OR = 0.32, 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.17–0.63), BSE (OR = 0.59, CI 95%, 0.39–0.87), CBE (OR = 1.54, CI 95%, 2.29–68.65) and MM (OR = 5.89, CI 95%, 1.13–30.73).

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