

OMAR A.

PURPOSE: This study was undertaken to investigate appropriate sequencing of adjuvant radiotherapy and adjuvant chemotherapy effect on DFS(disease free survival) and OS(overall survival) in breast cancer patients.

PATIENTS AND METHODS: Between September 2001 to April 2003, 100 patients with breast cancer were randomly assigned to either arm A(sequential): 6 cycles of adjuvant chemotherapy followed by Adjuvant radiotherapy, or arm B (concomitant sandwich technique): 3 cycles of adjuvant chemotherapy followed adjuvant radiotherapy, then another 3 cycles of Adjuvant chemotherapy. The primary end point was 5-year disease free survival and overall survival.

RESULTS: Median follow-up was 60 months. DFS at the first year was 66% vs 74% in group A and group B respectively. At 4th year it became 45.3% in group A compared to 69.1% in group B. (P=0.08). the 5 year overall survival (62 % in group A vs 70% in group B) (P = 0.52)

CONCLUSION: The sandwich technique was the best sequence in terms of overall survival, disease free survival with no statistical difference between the two arms.