

PAGET'S DISEASE AND MALE BREAST CANCER

To the Editor:

We read with much interest the report regarding Paget's disease of the male breast with underlying ductal carcinoma [1]. Since the data cited in the article regarding survival are from 1986, we feel there are certain facts that warrant clarification. Paget disease, alone, is an indolent malignant entity. Its prognosis is dependent on the presence of an underlying invasive ductal carcinoma or axillary node metastases.

In a more recent publication [2], the 15 year female breast cancer-specific survival was 97%, as compared to the 20–40% 5 year survival rate cited in the article by Leibou et al. [1]. The study is small but reflects the current practice and outcome in breast cancer oncology.

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References

- Leibou L, Herman O, Frand J, Kramer E, Mordechai S. Paget's disease of the male breast with underlying ductal carcinoma. *IMAJ* 2015; 17: 64-5.
- Marshall JK, Griffith KA, Haffty BG, et al. Conservative management of Paget disease of the

breast with radiotherapy: 10 and 15 year results. *Cancer* 2003; 97: 2142-9.

To the Editor:

In response to the comment by Drs. Yerushalmi and Sulkes, we wish to point out that the purpose of the article was to increase the awareness of the medical staff regarding Paget's disease of the male breast, even though it is a very rare disease, and to be alert to its possible presence.

There are numerous publications on this disease in the literature but their patient samples are very small, meaning that survival and 5 year survival are based on small populations. Nonetheless, there are no data on survival for male patients!

We accept the remarks concerning the general survival of Paget's female patients based on the "new" reference cited and we acknowledge the scientific comment.

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HELICOBACTER PYLORI AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS

To the Editor:

I would like to add our experience to support the interesting paper by

Shmueli et al. recently published in *IMAJ* [1]. These authors found that serum antibodies against *Helicobacter pylori* were associated with coronary artery disease independent of traditional cardiovascular risk factors.

We published our experience with *H. pylori* documenting the fact that *H. pylori*-positive patients (documented by gastric biopsy) had endothelial dysfunction [2]. More than that, following eradication of the bacteria, the endothelial function was improved and became normal. Our finding was that *H. pylori* eradication can improve endothelial function [2].

Our study reinforces the clinical data presented in the paper by Shmueli and team and may demonstrate one of the mechanisms by which *H. pylori* can affect atherosclerosis and coronary artery disease.

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References

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- Blum A, Tamir S, Mualem K, et al. Endothelial dysfunction is reversible in *Helicobacter pylori* positive subjects. *Am J Med* 2011; 124 (12): 1171-4.