

**POSTER SESSION 1 ABSTRACTS**  
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**Cancer**  
**PS1-3**

**Predictors of Recurrence after Breast Cancer in Women Aged 65 Years and Older.**

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**Background:** While breast cancer disproportionately affects women aged 65 years and older, a substantial literature has documented that older women are less likely to receive definitive treatment for a new diagnosis of breast cancer. Thus we conducted a retrospective cohort study to examine demographic, tumor and treatment factors associated with recurrence after breast cancer in older women.

**Methods:** Women aged 65 years or older diagnosed with stage I or II breast cancer from 1990 to 1994 were identified from cancer registry or administrative databases at six healthcare delivery systems, then followed for 10 years or until death or disenrollment from the healthcare system. Trained abstractors reviewed medical records to confirm eligibility and gather data on recurrence, tumor, treatment and demographic factors. We used logistic regression to examine predictors of recurrence adjusting for age, race/ethnicity, tumor size, grade, node positivity and receipt of adjuvant therapy.

**Results:** Of 1,859 women meeting entry criteria, 34% were aged 65 to 69, 46% were aged 70 to 79 and 20% were aged 80 years or older. During follow-up 303 (16.3%) women experienced a recurrence of their breast cancer; the median time to recurrence was 2.97 (range .12 to 9.9) years after the initial diagnosis. Failure to receive standard primary tumor therapy (breast-conserving surgery with radiation therapy or mastectomy) was associated with recurrence (OR=1.8, 95% CI=1.1-2.8) in the multivariable model.

**Conclusions:** Older women benefit from receipt of standard primary tumor therapy for breast cancer.