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**EFFECT OF EARLY BREAST CANCER DETECTION AMONG THE EASTERN LIBYAN
POPULATION**

Aminah Alzwae
Benghazi University, Libya

Breast cancer is considered the most common cause of cancer death among Libyan female population and female in Libya has tendency to develop breast cancer at least a decade earlier than theirs in western countries, about two-thirds of women with breast cancer are younger than 50yrs, unfortunately most of our patients are discovered in advanced stages. Cancer remains a taboo in Libya because of many reasons including fear of society's view, fear from her husband to leave her, she is becoming the cause of the stigma for all the females in her own family as well as poor health education and difficulty in accessing health care facilities and some wrong-attitudes about the treatment of breast cancer by cautery and herbal treatment. Most people still refer to it as "that other disease" and remain afraid of mentioning it by name! There is no national Libyan screening programme for early breast cancer detection as well as cancer registration and research are limited in Libya. So, by my own personal effort and incredible support from a lot of volunteers, local administration of my hospital and from the Libyan ladies themselves, we opened the first and the only breast cancer early detection unit in Libya on 2017. Our goal is to reduce numbers of locally advanced breast cancer at presentation in order to reduce morbidity and mortality of breast cancer. We discovered the big difference in stages of presentation by comparing previous years mainly in 2016 and 2015, during one year from 2017 to 2018, we discovered about 230 case of proven cancer, 10 of them are DCIS, 180 cases are at stage T1 & T2, 40 cases are at stage T3 & 20 cases are at stage T4.