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## Tumor infiltrating lymphocytes and tertiary lymphoid structure as prognostic and predictive factor for neoadjuvant chemotherapy in stage ii & iii breast cancer

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**Introduction:** Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) have a strong prognostic and predictive value in triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) and HER2 enriched subtype but no other breast subtypes but no studies have evaluated tertiary lymphoid structure (TLS).

**Materials and Methods:** Eighty patients with stage II and III breast cancer in Tanta oncology and pathology departments with luminal A, B and her 2 enriched and TNBC diagnosed with core needle biopsy treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy (4 AC followed by 12-week paclitaxel + herceptin). TIL and TLS were evaluated histopathologically using hematoxylin and eosin-

stained slides. The immune cell aggregates which were TLS positive showed the presence of CD20+B lymphocytes within the follicles, with areas of CD3+, CD4+ T lymphocytes mainly in the periphery [T-cell zone] resembling the highly organized structures of secondary lymphoid organs.

**Results:** TLS were detected in 53.7% of the tumors in whole breast groups, 83.7% in triple negative subgroup. Increased number of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes and tertiary lymphoid structure are associated with longer OS and DFS for TNBC and HER2-positive breast cancer.

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