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Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation

“Updates on Early Detection of Breast Cancer” Seminar

Abstract –Breast cancer screening : Women’s perspectives

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Women concerns about the benefits & harms of breast cancer screening.

Literature had already reported an overall reduction in breast cancer mortality by 25-30% in particular age groups (50-69)

Harms resulted from false positive result & led to unnecessary interventions & related anxiety.

False positive rate was quoted 50-200/1000 screens. Study had revealed that women well accepted false positive results.

Over diagnosis was denoted by cancers found on screening that could never cause death if left alone. It implies unnecessary intervention, operations & thus the anxiety & complications related. Actual rate of over diagnosis could hardly be measured but was estimated around 24%.

It was reflected from the increased incidence of ductal carcinoma in situ(DCIS) after the screening era.

Trial had reported 2 women were overdiagnosed for every breast cancer life avoided.

However, most women believes screening is a good idea (87%) & 56% would like to be screened even for slow growing cancers.

Informed consent with benefits & harms explained helps women to consider screening.

END

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