



FOREWORD

The Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry (BCR) has come to its third year, and has benefited from the progressive growth in breast cancer patient participation (from 2,330 to 5,300 patients, up 56%) and in medical centre participation (from 16 to 25 centres, up 40%) for the year 2010-2011.

The data in previous reports has become a source of information for patients and healthcare professionals. Through the reports, the newly diagnosed patients can learn about their treatment options and the psychological changes they might face from survivors who have been there. Additionally, the reports also provide comprehensive facts about breast cancer in a local context to help clinicians explain to their patients and compare the characteristics of their cancers with others, and to facilitate patients and clinicians to devise appropriate treatment plans jointly for individual patient.

In this Report No. 3, we have made several notable additions, over and above the scope of the previous reports.

This report reviews breast cancer cases that were first diagnosed and / or treated at both public and private healthcare facilities. The comparative analysis allows us to observe disparities, if any, in cancer characteristics between patients receiving treatment in public hospitals and those in private ones. It also allows one to study the effect of health care policy on the clinical pattern of breast cancer between the two sectors.

This report also reviews the breast screening habits of patients by occupation and residential district. In the long run, these supplementary analyses are expected to induce further investigation that can lead to devising better health care policy.

The pleasing progress of the BCR is the result of joint efforts of the members of a multi-disciplinary Steering Committee and the research team of the Foundation. Indeed, there is still a long way to go towards understanding the local breast cancer facts. We hope more patients, participating medical centres and doctors can join the BCR.

We welcome and encourage comments and suggestions that will help us improve in future. Thank you for taking time to learn about us and about our role in the fight against breast cancer.



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