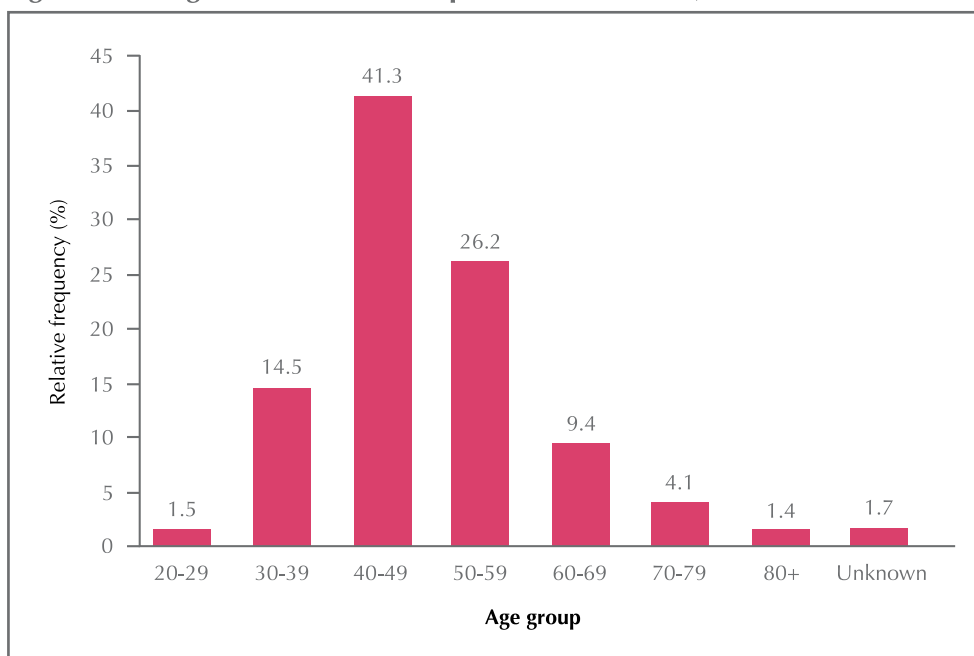


1.1 Demographics

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among women in Hong Kong. It rarely occurs in men. The mean and median ages at diagnosis were 49.6 years and 48.3 years in the patient cohort respectively (range: 20.7-101.1 years), with the majority (67.5%) of patients aged between 40 and 59 (Figure 1.1.1).

Figure 1.1.1 Age distribution of the patient cohort (N=5,393)





In this patient cohort, 35.7% were professionals or clerical workers; 72.5% were educated at secondary school level or above; 37.8% had a monthly household income lower than \$30,000; and 72.9% resided in Kowloon or the New Territories (Table 1.1.1).

Table 1.1.1 Sociodemographic characteristics of the patient cohort (N=5,393)

	Number	(%)		Number	(%)
Sex			Educational level		
Female	5,388	(99.9)	No schooling / kindergarten	273	(5.1)
Male	5	(0.1)	Primary school	1,098	(20.4)
Marital status			Secondary school	2,574	(47.7)
Never married	794	(14.7)	Matriculation or above	1,337	(24.8)
Married	3,997	(74.1)	Unknown	111	(2.1)
Divorced / Widowed /			Monthly household income		
Co-habiting	564	(10.5)	<\$10,000	667	(12.4)
Unknown	38	(0.7)	\$10,000 - 29,999	1,371	(25.4)
Occupation			≥\$30,000	1,364	(25.2)
Professional / clerical	1,927	(35.7)	Unknown	1,991	(36.9)
Non-clerical / labour	938	(17.3)	Residential district		
Housewife	1,654	(30.7)	Hong Kong Island	1,194	(22.1)
Self-employed	176	(3.3)	Kowloon	1,328	(24.7)
Retired / unemployed	480	(8.9)	New Territories	2,601	(48.2)
Unknown	218	(4.0)	Others	86	(1.6)
			Unknown	184	(3.4)