

## **Abstract**

The affecting factors of the delays before diagnosis, diagnosis and treatment of the patients with breast cancer using the Anderson model

**Introduction:** Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the second leading cause of death in women 35-55 years old. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Iran and it has high mortality rates among women on different ages. The delays before diagnosis, diagnosis and treatment of patients increase the chances of survival of patients. In this study, factors have been investigated, by using Anderson model, a five-stage model of delayed diagnosis and treatments of breast cancer.

**Materials and methods:** It is a cross-sectional study on 160 patients with breast cancer, who are follow their treatments or had been treated recently, by using a questionnaire based on Anderson model. Data collected and analyzed by SPSS software with T-Test and Chi-square on tables.

**Results:** The results showed that the highest number of patients were women with an average age of  $44.25 \pm 1.33$  years. mass in the breast was common symptom in the patients. Higher levels of education and employment caused the earlier physician visit and lowered the latency. It was shown that patients do self-care before seeing a doctor. In this study, the patients delay, the time between firs symptoms and seeing a doctor was  $53 \pm 5.1$  days and the system delay, the time between seeing a doctor and treatments start, was  $78.35 \pm 5.7$  days.

**Conclusion:** Due to the lower latency among patients with higher levels of education and employment, and doing unspecific measures before seeing a doctor, and the affection of factors such as fear of late appointment, it seems training programs to change beliefs and attitudes of women about breast cancer should be plannig.

**Keywords:** breast cancer, delay disease, Anderson model