

| Project Title | Defining and defeating indigenous disadvantage in breast cancer survival |
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| Recipient | Dr Andrew Redfern |
| Institution | The University of Western Australia |
| Research description | <p>Non-Indigenous women. Studies looking at age, stage at diagnosis, patient remoteness, and access to medical services only explain a fraction of this disadvantage.</p> <p>The research will look at a large range of factors relating to the breast cancers Indigenous women get and how they are treated, any of which could worsen survival. These will include whether Indigenous women experience differences in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic types of breast cancers diagnosed eg HER2 positive. • how well they activate anti-cancer drugs • the density of tissue and the immune cells around the cancers • the way cancers are treated in early and late stages <p>None of these factors have been studied in Indigenous women before.</p> <p>These aims will be achieved by studying all 114 Indigenous women diagnosed 2001-2010 and compared to 314 non-Indigenous women living in similar areas. Our research has already found that these women were 400% more likely to die of their cancer. The research team will achieve this by sourcing medical records and other data from throughout each person's therapy and plotting that treatment. Samples of each cancer will be collected and tested for specific cancer type and immune cell density. Breast density and whether it affects tumour size and outcome will be calculated from collected mammograms. Also, normal tissue will be tested for genes that activate anti-cancer drugs.</p> <p>The team will also carry out 5 interviews for each group exploring attitudes to treatment and barriers to care, basing some questions on findings from the above. Finally, the team will hold two exploratory forums in regional/remote hubs relevant to treatment of Indigenous women. These will have educational elements for healthcare workers and interested public. Solutions for problems such as doctor and patient education, telehealth to help drug compliance, and local chemotherapy delivery will be explored. The best treatment for Indigenous women will be identified and the research team will endeavour to ensure this is delivered.</p> |
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