Multiple Myeloma Demographics: Tripoli University Hospital Data

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Background

Multiple myeloma is the second most common hematological malignancy in the United States. It is a plasma cell neoplasm characterized by anemia, hypercalcemia, renal involvement, and bone lytic lesions (CRAB), along with recurrent infections despite the secretion of oligoclonal bands of immunoglobulins.

Methods

We conducted a retrospective observational study from January 2020 to April 2025, retrieving data from 47 patients registered and/or followed up at the Hematology and Oncology Clinic in Tripoli University Hospital.

Results

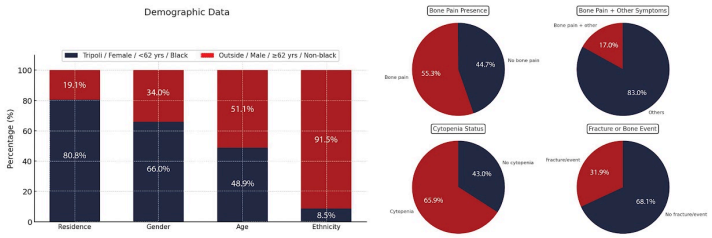
A total of 47 patients were included in the study. Of these, 38 patients (%80.85) resided in Tripoli. There were 31 female patients (%65.96), resulting in a female-to-male ratio of approximately (31:16) 2:1. The age range of the patients was 40 to 80 years, with a median age of 62 years. The median plasma cell percentage prior to therapy was %40. Of the 47 patients studied, (%55.32) 26 reported bone pain, with (%17) 8 presenting with concomitant anemia and/or renal impairment. Hematologic evaluation revealed a mean pretreatment hemoglobin level of 9.67 g/dL, with %65.95 of patients exhibiting cytopenia . Fractures or bone-related events occurred in %31.91 of cases, demonstrating comparable prevalence between sexes (%31.25 in males vs %32.26 in females). Treatment protocols predominantly featured bortezomib + dexamethasone and thalidomide (VTD). Demographically, the cohort included four Black patients, two of whom were wheelchair-bound.

Conclusion

Further studies with larger population recruitment and collaboration with other cancer centers are recommended to better understand the incidence and prevalence of this disease in Libya.

Keywords

MM, multiple myeloma, bone pain, anemia



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