

CHAPTER I

PREFACE

I.1. Introduction

Breast cancer has been known as the deathful disease that has high mortality. This disease has importance as a cause of death and its widespread prevalence. As other causes of death in middle-aged women have disappeared with improvement in public health and obstetrical management and with declining incidence of uterine carcinoma, breast cancer has remained constant in incidence, prevalence, and mortality (Moore, 1976).

The incidence of this disease varies widely throughout the world, with six times higher in North America and Europe than in many parts of Asia and Africa. Intermediate rates for breast cancer appear in South American countries (Lynch, 1981).

Breast cancer is a major public health problem for women in the United States and other Western Countries. In the United States, the annual age-adjusted incidence rate is about 85 per 100,000 women and the age-adjusted mortality is about 28 per 100,000 women (Kelsey, 1983). This is why during the last 15 years, it has emerged in the United States as the commonest cause of death of white women between the ages of 40 and 50 (Moore, 1976). Breast cancer accounts for 27% of all malignant neoplasm in American women and represents the leading cause of all deaths in women age 40 to 44. About 1 in every 11 American women will eventually develop this disease (Lynch, 1981). Haskel, *et al*, state that in US,

1 out of every 14 women (7 per cent) is likely to develop the disease, and 1 out of every 4 women with cancer will have breast cancer.

In the last few years, there is a tendency of simultaneous increasing incidence of breast cancer in Indonesia. It is assumed about 100 new patients for every 100,000 citizen per year and the mortality rate is in the 6th place from all death in 1989. It is estimated that the prevalence of breast cancer victims become increasing every year because of the higher life expectancy, social-economic improvement, and the changes of disease pattern. In Indonesia, breast cancer is not only as the main case but it also stated that more than 70% of breast cancer victims were found in advanced stage. This makes breast cancer become the leading "cancer killer" in women. This condition can be avoided with earlier detection, usually done by the women themselves. The woman finds nine of ten cancers detected today themselves, not by physicians (Moningkey, 2000).

I.2. Background

The high incidence of breast cancer in Indonesia and the new case discovery which usually happen at the advanced stage require the medical forces to know about the risk factors of breast cancer, so that they will be able to give an extension to the high risky women or the housewives about the efforts and prevention steps to reduce the breast cancer incidence, that is by doing early detection.

The early detection of breast cancer can be done by self-breast examination which is in Indonesia known as SADARI or Periksa Payudara Sendiri. This self-examination is relative simple, no pain, needs only short time, and no charge. Breast cancer which is found is still in pre-cancer stage can be totally cured. Therefore, early detection is very important to reduce the breast cancer prevalence in Indonesia. Nowadays, there still are many Indonesian women who do not realize the importance of doing self-breast examination yet for the breast cancer early detection effort, that is caused by many factors. Some of those factors are there is no knowledge about breast cancer examination, the lack of economic capability, and the low level of consciousness about the breast cancer dangers to the victim's life.

The implementation of self-breast examination may diagnose the occurrence of breast cancer in early stage, so that we can do the therapy efforts and operation steps in order to reduce the cancer metastases to distant organs. Then, it is expected that the victim's morbidity and mortality rate will be decreased.

I.3. Objective of Study

The objective of this scientific paper is to know about breast cancer and its treatments in Dr. Sardjito hospital, Yogyakarta in January-December 2003.

I.4. Significance of Study

This study hopes that the result of the study would give some benefits for the writer herself, for the hospital, and for the society. It is expected that the result of the study will give more knowledge to the writer in understanding about breast cancer.

The writer also expect that the result of this study can be useful as an input and consideration for the hospital in giving an extension to the high risky women about the importance of SADARI.

The society is hoped to be able to get some benefits from the result of the study, that it can increase women's consciousness towards the importance of doing breast cancer early detection, with SADARI, to lessen the morbidity and mortality rate because of breast cancer.