The Effect of Positive Margins on Outcomes in Breast Cancer

The Relationship Between Positive Margins and Disease-Free Survival and Overall Survival

The identified studies consistently found a significant relationship between positive margins and disease-free survival.

In a systematic review and meta-analysis by Houssami et al., the relative risk for recurrence was highest for patients with positive margins, with an odds ratio of 1.66 and a 95% confidence interval of 1.28-2.15.

The majority of patients with positive margins were found to have a 2-3 mm margin, and the recurrence rates were significantly higher in this group compared to those with negative margins.

Furthermore, the presence of positive margins was associated with a higher incidence of distant metastases, with a relative risk of 1.44 and a 95% confidence interval of 1.11-1.87.

REFERENCES


