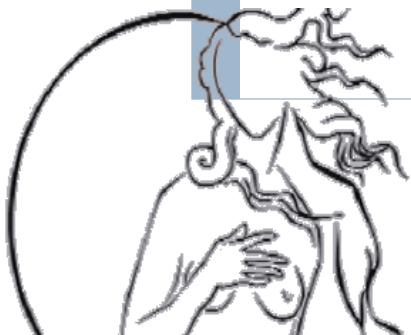




Nursing education in breast cancer in Italy

Stefano Terzoni, RN, PhD

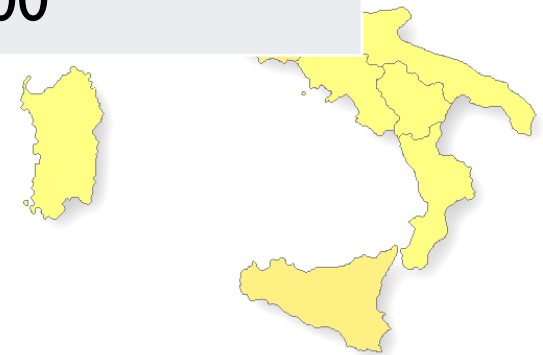


4th International Congress of
Breast Disease Centers - Paris, 2014

Breast cancer in Italy

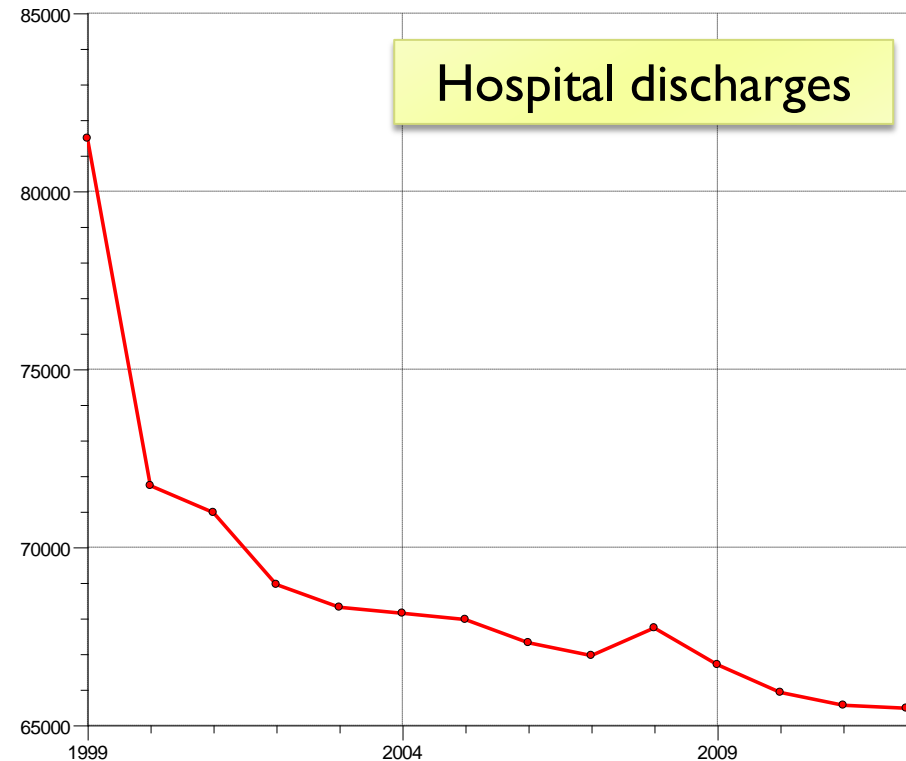
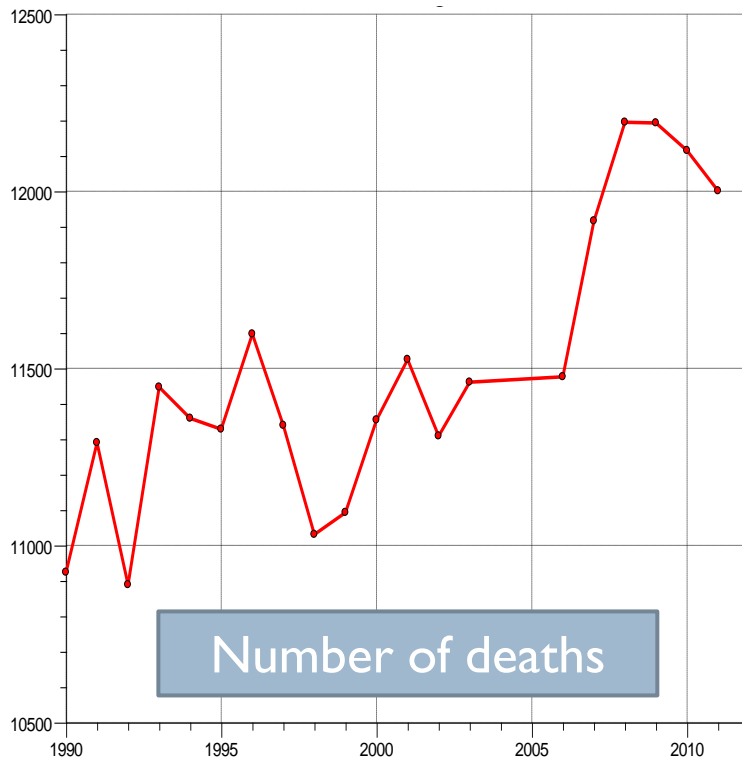
- ▶ Most frequent cancer in women, overall incidence: 29%

Decades of life	Cases/100,000 women
3	<100 per year
4	100-200
5	200-250
6 and over	300



▶ (AIRTUM national Italian registry of cancer, 2008)

Mortality, hospital discharges & survival



Survival rates:
Age 40-49: 91.0%
Age 50-69 : 89.7%

Breast cancer and nursing in Italy

- ▶ Public healthcare system, no mandatory insurance
- ▶ Public and private facilities dedicated to cancer patients
- ▶ Breast units in both dedicated hospitals and in general hospitals
- ▶ Nurses can neither prescribe drugs, nor perform biopsies



Breast cancer: the role of nurses

- ▶ Nursing care for inpatients
- ▶ Nursing **case management** in every step of the patient's pathway

The case manager nurse (CMN) is present when:

- ✓ Biopsy is scheduled
- ✓ Oncologists communicate the diagnosis
- ✓ Patients meet MDs for follow-up activities

- ▶ Also performs clinical and organizational activities.



Activities of CMNs in breast units

Upon indication of the MDs:

- ✓ activation of pathways for lymphnode biopsy or carbon marking
- ✓ Activation of psychological and rehabilitation services

Patient information and education:

- ✓ Procedures
- ✓ Wound care
- ✓ Who does what
- ✓ Request for cultural mediation

Direct care

- ✓ Collaborates with MDs during clinical procedures (marking)
 - ✓ Wound dressing etc.
-



Nursing education in Italy

▶ Bachelor in Nursing (3 years, 180 ECTS)

▶ 1st level specialistic courses
(up to 60 ECTS)

▶ Master's degree (2 years, 120 ECTS)

▶ 2nd level specialistic courses

▶ Ph.D. (3 years, 180 ECTS)

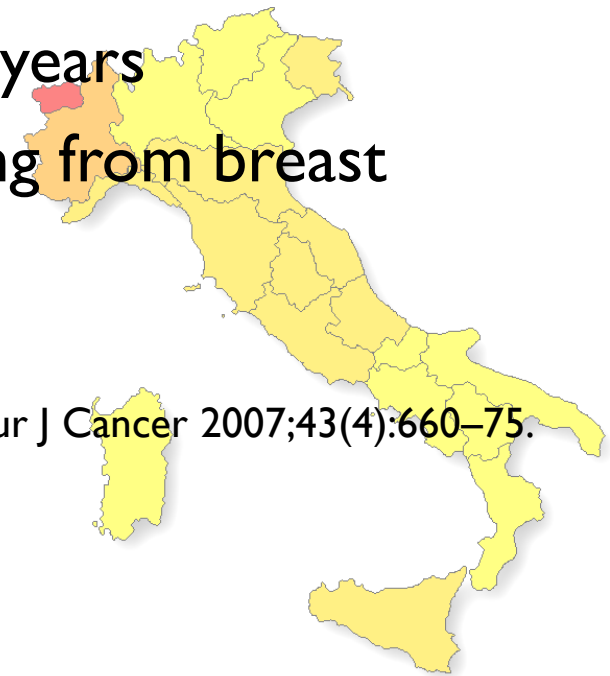


Breast nurses: skills and education

Some authors have proposed basic criteria for breast nurses:

- ✓ Bachelor's degree in Nursing
- ✓ Experience in oncologic nursing min. 2 years
- ✓ Work in units in which patients suffering from breast cancer are often admitted.

Cataliotti L, De Wolf C, Holland R, et al. *Eur J Cancer* 2007;43(4):660–75.



Breast Nursing education in Italy

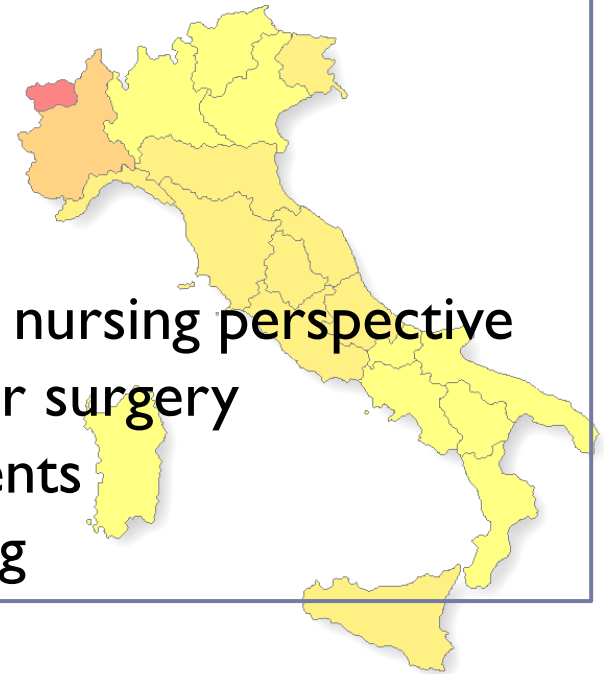
- ▶ Post-bachelor courses, no uniform mandatory regulations

Post-bachelor course in senology nursing (60 ECTS, 1500 hours)

- ✓ Theoretical lessons
- ✓ Practice in breast units

Topics:

- ✓ Diagnostic and therapeutic pathways from a nursing perspective
- ✓ Nursing of inpatients before, during and after surgery
- ✓ Educational methods for breast cancer patients
- ✓ Evidence-based practice for senology nursing



Nursing case management

- ▶ **Post-bachelor course (60 ECTS, 1500 hours)**

- ✓ Theoretical lessons
- ✓ Practice (approx. 250 hours)

- ▶ **Topics:**

- ✓ Organizational models for nursing
- ✓ Clinical pathways in specialistic settings
- ✓ The oncologic network in Italy
- ✓ Clinical nursing topics (not only related to breast cancer)
- ✓ Patient education



Additional titles

- ▶ In some hospitals, the case manager nurses hold a post-bachelor head-nurse title (60 ECTS, 1500 hours)
- ✓ Organizational models for healthcare
- ✓ Economic aspects of care
- ✓ Nursing staff management
- ▶ Available in many universities all over the Country



Breast nurses education – Gray areas

- ▶ No mandatory post-bachelor education in Italy, except for head nurses
- ▶ Recognizing a role to nurses with specialistic education is not mandatory for hospitals.
- ▶ Different educational programmes in different universities (no national regulations)
- ▶ Post-bachelor courses in senology only available in few universities



Conclusions

- ▶ Nurses play important roles in breast units
- ▶ They act as “contact persons” and apply advanced care models
- ▶ Patient education and support, advanced evidence-based nursing practice
- ▶ They participate in writing protocols and building multidisciplinary pathways
- ▶ Need for uniform requirements in education (common programmes)



Thank you



stefano.terzoni@ao-sanpaolo.it