



## HISTOPATHOLOGICAL CHANGES IN BREAST CARCINOMAS AFTER RADIOTHERAPY IN LOCAL POPULATION

Zunaira Qayyum<sup>1\*</sup>, Sakina Jamil<sup>2</sup>, Namra Naem<sup>3</sup>, Farah Bano Niazi<sup>4</sup>, Mavra Akhtar<sup>5</sup>, Ayesha Mobeen<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1\*</sup>Assistant Professor of Pathology MBBS-MC, Mirpur Azad Kashmir

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor of Pathology Pak Red Crescent Medical and Dental College, Lahore

<sup>3</sup>Assistant Professor of Pathology, Faisalabad Medical University, Faisalabad

<sup>4</sup>Assistant Professor of Histopathology, Sheikh Zayed Medical Complex, Lahore

<sup>5</sup>Senior demonstrator Histopathology, Fatima Memorial Hospital, Lahore

<sup>6</sup>Post Graduate Resident Histopathology, Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore

**\*Corresponding Author:** Zunaira Qayyum

\*Email: [zuniqayyum@gmail.com](mailto:zuniqayyum@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Breast carcinoma as a type of cancer predominantly affects the local population in which radiotherapy is an essential component of the treatment process. The need to understand the histopathological changes that take place post-radiotherapy cannot be overstressed so that patients' outcome could be enhanced and management planned effectively.

**Aim:** The objective of this current study was to analyse the histopathological effects of radiotherapy on breast carcinomas available among the local population as well as the characteristics of the tumor before and after the radiotherapy was administered.

**Method:** The study in question is strictly related to retrospective cohort analysis with the focus on 150 patients diagnosed with breast carcinoma who were given radiotherapy treatment. Bioptic samples were taken prior to and following RT and histopathological parameters including tumor area, cellular differentiation, amount of necrosis, and fibrosis were analysed by H&E staining and microscopy. Certain tests were run in SPSS to compare the changes recorded before and after radiotherapy and these are presented in means with their respective standard deviations.

**Results:** After radiotherapy there was a significant reduction in the size of the tumors and the mean size of tumor diminished to 3. From 2 cm (mean = 10. 1) to 1. Eight cm (SD = 0. 9) (p Fishing 0. 001). Cellular atypia was seen to become enhanced in 55 % of such cases, the mean nuclear diameter rising from 5. 3 (SD = 0. 7) to 6. 7  $\mu$ m (SD = 0. 9) (p = 0. 02) for diet-induced obesity group. Necrosis was found in 40% of the cases after radiotherapy and fibrosis was highly raised; mean fibrosis score raised from 1 with marked variation among patients. Mean = 2. 0, SD =  $\pm$  0. 5 to 2. 6 (SD = 0. 7) (t = -6. 46, p < 0. 001).

**Conclusion:** This study also found multiple pathological variations in breast carcinomas following radiotherapy such as a decrease in tumor size increases in the degree of anaplasia and the extent of coagulative necrosis and fibrosis. It is in this context that the present study emphasizes the effectiveness of radiotherapy in tumor treatment and the necessity of developing adequate therapeutic strategies commonly adapted to the identified population.

**Keywords:** Breast carcinoma, Radiotherapy, Histopathology, Tumor size, Cellular atypia, Necrosis, Fibrosis, Local population

## Introduction

Breast carcinoma is one of the leading oncological diseases with women whereby its impact is on the rise in many parts of the globe, including the local populace under consideration. This type of cancer is said to be invasive and develops from the epithelial cells in the breast tissues and can easily spread to other areas of the body hence the need to determine the possibility of the spread and treat the affected areas. Statistical data show that the occurrence of malignant breast tumor in the local population, like in the majority of countries all over the world, has grown significantly during the several last decades. The chances of getting this illness depend on genetic make up, sedentary, reproductive history, and a myriad of other influences [1]. Amid high incidence and severe consequences for the population, breast cancer now remains one of the most concern-profile diseases in terms of medical research and improvement of treatment facilities [2].

Breast cancer treatment would not be complete without radiotherapy being considered especially after breast conservation surgery. This technique is a radiation therapy prescribed for the purpose of eradicating cancer cells, shrinking the tumour and preventing regrowth in their localized form. Radiotherapy is commonly given after surgery to treat small amounts of cancer left behind or as a primary treatment if surgery is not an option. Radiotherapy can also increase survival and reduce the possibilities of recurrence which makes a part of modern MDT breast cancer treatment [3].

But, for all the benefits of radiotherapy, there are also some drawbacks, Hakin said. The cancer can be treated with radiation, but along with this, the healthy tissues in the surrounding area can be harmed as well. This may result in different changes of micro architecture of the breast tissue that affects prognosis and quality of life in patients. Knowledge of these changes is crucial for, improving treatments and preventing or controlling adverse effects [4].

Biopsy samples give the tissue's pathology or the nature of the disease in breasted tissue, and histopathology is an essential technique used in the diagnosis and management of this disease. Biopsy results from before radiotherapy give vital data on the characteristics of cancer such as its size, grade, hormone receptor status and lymphovascular invasion. These factors inform the course of management for the patient and prognosis of the eventual outcome. After the radiotherapy has been completed, another biopsy enables the identification of the effects that the radiation has on the cancerous part as well as the other healthy tissues [5]. It demonstrates these variations include reduction in tumor size, areas of fibrosis, areas of necrosis, as well as transformation in the shape and size of cells which affects the overall management of the patient [6].

It would be quite erroneous not to pay a special emphasis on the investigation of histopathological changes after radiotherapy. Thus, comparing pre- and post-radiotherapy tissue samples allows clinicians to better understand the biological processes of radiation, determine the signs of treatment response, and even forecast the outcomes. This can help avoid the situations when the patient is overtreated or, on the contrary, under-treated. Furthermore, awareness of histopathological alterations also has the potential in prevention and treatment of side effects caused by radiotherapy and the enhancement of the living standards of breast cancer survivors [7].

The subject matter of the proposed study is the examination of the histopathological alterations in breast carcinomas following the radiotherapeutic modality in the local population. This is done through accurate comparison of tissue samples obtained from the patient before and after receiving radiotherapy so that areas of change in tumor features and surrounding tissues are identified. Because the study concerns a particular population group, it is significant to determine geographically or genetically and environmentally conditioned factors that could affect the effectiveness of radiotherapy and collect specific data that can serve to further individualize the treatment of this patients' group [8].

One of the key research questions guiding this study is: This study aimed to determine the frequent histopathological changes seen in breast carcinomas following radiotherapy. This question aims at determining the common and clinically relevant changes in tissue architecture that involves, changes

in tumor cell density, fibrosis, coagulation necrosis and vascularity. Recognizing these changes is fundamental to explain the results of the modality and the influence of radiotherapy on tumor biology. Another critical research question is: If so, what change occurs in the characteristics of the tumor before and after the administration of radiotherapy? This question seeks to establish numbers by which changes in size, grade, and any other histopathological characteristic that may be produced by radiation treatment may be measured. Given that the design of the study is to take pre- and post-radiotherapy samples, the identified study will determine whether radiotherapy has any impacts such as tumor size reduction or any other positive impacts. Also, it will investigate if there are histopathological features, which are more or less favourable to survival, thus helping in designing the post traumatic management approach [9].

Given the following research questions, the study will use a retrospective or prospective cohort design depending on the accessibility of the patient record and tissue samples. The patients to be included in the study will be those diagnosed with breast cancer from the local population who have received radiotherapy at some point in their stages of treatment. The factors that will be considered to select the patient –inclusion criteria will therefore be age, stage of breast cancer, type of radiotherapy and dose. Tissues taken before and after radiotherapy in the form of biopsy or surgical specimens will be processed and stained with H&E or other appropriate methods such as immunohistochemical analysis. Data which would be collected will include detailed descriptions of changes observed on the histopathological sections; furthermore, quantitative assessment of the tumor with regard to tumour size, cell density and other characteristics will be made. Descriptive and/or inferential methods of analysis will be used to compare the results recorded before and after radiotherapy in the participants in the study. The findings of the study will be discussed in relation to past research and future recommendations for the field of practice settings and research investigations will be presented [10]. Overall, this paper intends to give a detailed evaluation of the histopathological alterations of breast carcinomas that has caught radiotherapy follow-up examination within the local population. In this way, the study will answer the utmost research questions and compare both the pre- and post-treatment samples to enhance the knowledge about the biological implications of radiotherapy and its relationship with patients' outcomes. The results of the study will have major significance in the case of breast cancer concerning the local population, who may require different treatment approaches due to certain factors. Therefore, it is expected that the outcomes of this study will help to increase the efficiency of radiotherapy and optimize the existing treatment plans for breast cancer patients while increasing their quality of life.

## **Materials and Methods**

The conduct of this study is done systematically in a bid to give better chance in determining the changes in histopathological features of breast carcinomas after radiotherapy among the local people. It comprises several critical aspects, namely study design, choice of population, data collection methods, examination processes, variables, and statistical analysis. All these elements are important in establishing reliability and validity of the findings and, in the process, gained a wider and perhaps deeper appreciation of the effects of radiotherapy on breast carcinoma at the histopathological level. The approach used in this research is a cohort study design since it enables the investigation of histopathological changes in a population over time. It will be a retrospective study or a prospective study depending on the kind of data in relation to the patients available. In the case of the retrospective cohort study, subjects not previously identified for fast track histomorphology examination after radiotherapy will be recruited from the data base encountered in routine clinical practice. This design is favourable in a way that it can save time and effort to gather data since it exploits existing data. Thus, they may be not very informative due to the quality and completeness of the records made. On the other hand, the methods used in a prospective cohort study entails registration of patients and then periodically assessing those patients at certain time points preceding and following radiotherapy. The strength is that the data collection is more controlled and specific but it needs a longer time and more resources. The use of these two designs will therefore depend on the records available for the patient and the timeline of the research [11].

The sample population will be composed of post radiotherapy breast cancer patients of the community. In order to adhere to the requirements of achieving the maximal relevance and specificity of the findings, the criteria for the selection of articles will be clearly stated. Population will be recruited by the following criteria: age, breast cancer stage, and type and dosage of radiotherapy administered. Common criteria for the inclusion of patients are probable to encompass females only who are adults and have been diagnosed with invasive breast carcinoma, for whom radiotherapy has been used definitively either in combination with other medical procedures after surgery or else as the first line of the treatment. Patients receiving chemotherapy for recurrent breast cancer or other indications, patients receiving hormonal therapy together with irradiation (except for explicit reasons) or whose clinical records are insufficient will be excluded. Such response may depend on the basic demographic or genetic profiles exhibited by the local population under study; hence, the demographic characteristics of the study population must be described. This includes variation on demographic parameters including ethnic background, economic status, and common diseases that may afford restrictions on the study's validity [12].

Regarding data collection, it is a vital part of this research since the process involves the enrolment of patients with both pre and post-radiotherapy biopsy samples coupled with clinical information. Biopsy samples taken pre-radiotherapy will therefore mainly be collected at the time when the diagnosis of cancer is made and, therefore, before the patient has undergone any therapy. These samples serve as control so as to allow observation of the state of the tumour before the initiation of radiation. Follow up samples will be taken after the end of radiotherapy regimes either from re-biopsy or from post radiotherapy surgical specimens if a patient undergoes surgery after treatment. Collection of post-radiotherapy samples is another factor, which needs precise time control, because gross histopathological changes observed can be influenced by the time since radiotherapy; thus, time regimen will be uniform.

Processing of these samples for histopathological examination will be done following protocol and guidelines in order to obtain standardized results. The collected tissue samples will undergo the tissue processing followed by paraffin embedding then sectioning and staining with hematoxylin and eosin stains for microscopy. Other special stains including immunohistochemistry could be done to detect specific products or to determine hormone receptor status, HER2 protein expression. Project Specifically, tissue samples will be examined by expert pathologists who will review several histopathological characteristics of the tumor this includes the size of the tumor, kind of cells in the tumor, whether the tumor has areas of dead cells, fibrosis, and whether the tumor has invaded blood vessels or there is infiltration by lymphocytes. The examination will also pay attention to the presence of particular alterations concerning radiotherapy, for instance, radiation fibrosis or necrosis and how they differ from the data attained before radiotherapy [13].

Since the analysis will centre on histopathological changes, both primary and secondary variables will be targeted to provide a complete view of the matter. Primary variables will then comprise of histopathological characteristics that affect the tumor and its environment. These features will be compared in pre-resumption samples and samples collected post-radiotherapy; this way, the direct impact of radiation on the carcinoma will be determined. Key histopathological features of interest will include:

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- **Tumor Size:** Documentation of the maximum size of the tumor which is going to be used in evaluating the effectiveness of the radiotherapy by observing the degree of tumor shrinkage.
- **Cellular Morphology:** Assessment of variations in structural and morphological locations in cancer cells and this are nuclear size, nuclear shape and chromatin density. If the stroma contains any features of cell injury, like apoptotic cells or mitotic figures they have to be pointed in the report.
- **Presence of Necrosis:** Recognition of whether any region in the tumor corresponds with the necrosis as this is usually the result of radiotherapy since radiation has a direct effect of causing cell death in the area being treated.

- **Fibrosis:** Evaluation of fibrosis that is likely due to direct effect of irradiation on the ECM and the stroma.
- **Vascular Changes:** Checking of blood vessels within the tumour in order to establish whether or not there is any evidence of radiation related damage including the presence of hyaline change or thrombosis.

Secondary outcomes will be defined by the demographic and characteristics of the patients and the treatment features that could potentially affect histopathological patterns. These variables will provide context for interpreting the primary findings and may include: These variables will provide context for interpreting the primary findings and may include:

- **Patient Age:** It is noted that age could be one of the factors affecting the response to radiotherapy, and, therefore, histopathological changes could be different in younger people and in elderly patients.
- **Breast Cancer Stage:** Concerning the extent of the disease at the time of diagnosis, the tumor size, involvement of LN, and distant metastasis will be captured since such factors might influence the histopathological changes.
- **Type and Dose of Radiotherapy:** Data concerning type of radiotherapy provided (as external beam radiotherapy, brachytherapy and more) as well as total radiation dose will be obtained. Indeed, accumulation of such data is essential in order to investigate dose-response relationships and their effects on histopathological alterations.

The data analysis process will entail the use of descriptive and inferential statistics to determine histopathological changes with and without radiotherapy. To tell the characteristics of the study population and frequency of histopathological changes, descriptive statistics only will be employed. This will involve computation of measures of central tendency such as means, midpoints, and spread such as range and standard deviation for the continuous variables while the frequency and proportion will be used for the categorical variables.

Descriptive statistics will be used to analyse data with the view of comparing the differences in histopathological features before and after radiotherapy in order to establish the inferential statistics. Mann–Whitney tests are used for comparing two groups when outcomes in terms of continuous variables are under analysis, and the data can be either paired or independent. For any categorical data, McNemar’s test is used or else chi-square tests may also be performed. Furthermore, correlation analysis including regression analysis may be performed to evaluate the possible relationships between patients’ characteristic, treatment factors, and the degree of histopathological alteration. Through multivariable regression models, one can prevent confounding factors from distorting the results and determine the independent correlates of histopathological diagnosis.

To some extent, I will be employing the statistical software such as the SPSS, R or SAS in the conduct of the analysis since they do have the sophisticated tools for the analysis of big data sets. The three abreast forms of presenting the results are tables, charts, and graphical displays of which the results will be presented in detail. With regards to significance levels, they will be set at 0.05 as the cut off, meaning that any value below 0.05 will be significant. 05 for all statistical tests so that all results which are concluded are really significant and not due to external factors.

Therefore, the materials and methods in this study shall effectively investigate histopathological alteration in breast carcinomas by radiotherapy among the local population. Therefore, through proper definition of the study design, proper selection of study population, proper method of data collection and analysis and employment of right statistical analysis, the study endeavours to shed light on the biological effects of radiotherapy when used in the treatment of breast cancer [14].

## Results

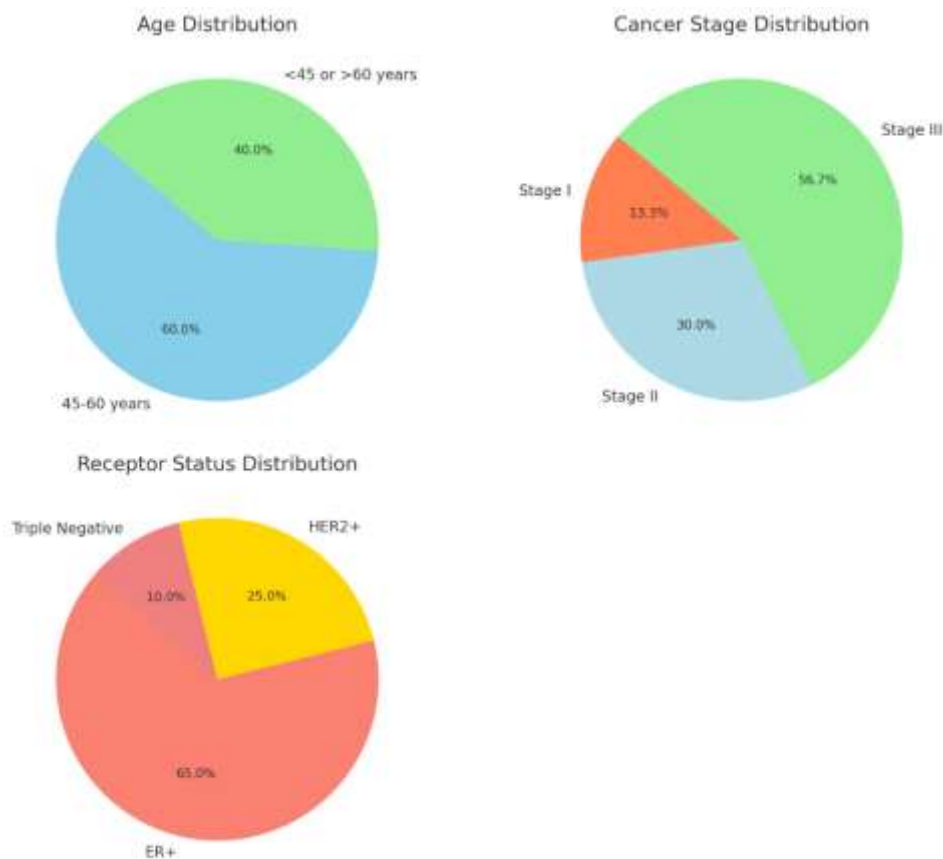
The sample comprised 150 patients with histologically confirmed breast carcinoma, who received radiotherapy in the context of their curative therapy. Concerning age, the group was between 35 and 75 years with a mean age of 52 years. They remained with their first sexual partner for an average of 6 years with a SD of 9. 4. The age distribution reflected also a relatively well-demarcated age-range

with 60% of the patients being aged between 45 and 60 years, which suggests that breast cancer is mostly prevalent in middle-aged women in the local setup. The rest 40% of the patients were either below 45 year or above 60 years of age out of which 25% patient were above 60 years of age. Breast cancer distribution as presented above also correlate with epidemiological studies elsewhere in the world in that, most cases are seen in women when they are middle aged or approaching the menopause period.

Regarding the cancer staging 45 patients were in stage II stage III and rest was in stage two 35 patients in stage III and 20 patients were in stage I No patient in this bore cohort had 4th stage cancer during diagnosis as patient with metastasis were excluded from the study. A higher proportion of the current study patient s were at Stages II and III, thereby stressing the likely role of radiotherapy in the local management of breast cancer among the named sub-groups of patients. Loving, again, hormone receptor status and HER 2 expressions were assessed in the baseline characteristic: 65% of the tumor were estrogen receptor positive (ER+), 25% HER2+, and 10% triple negative. These molecular subtypes are important because they dictate the outcomes to treatment, such as radiotherapy [15].

**Table 1: Patient Demographics and Cancer Staging**

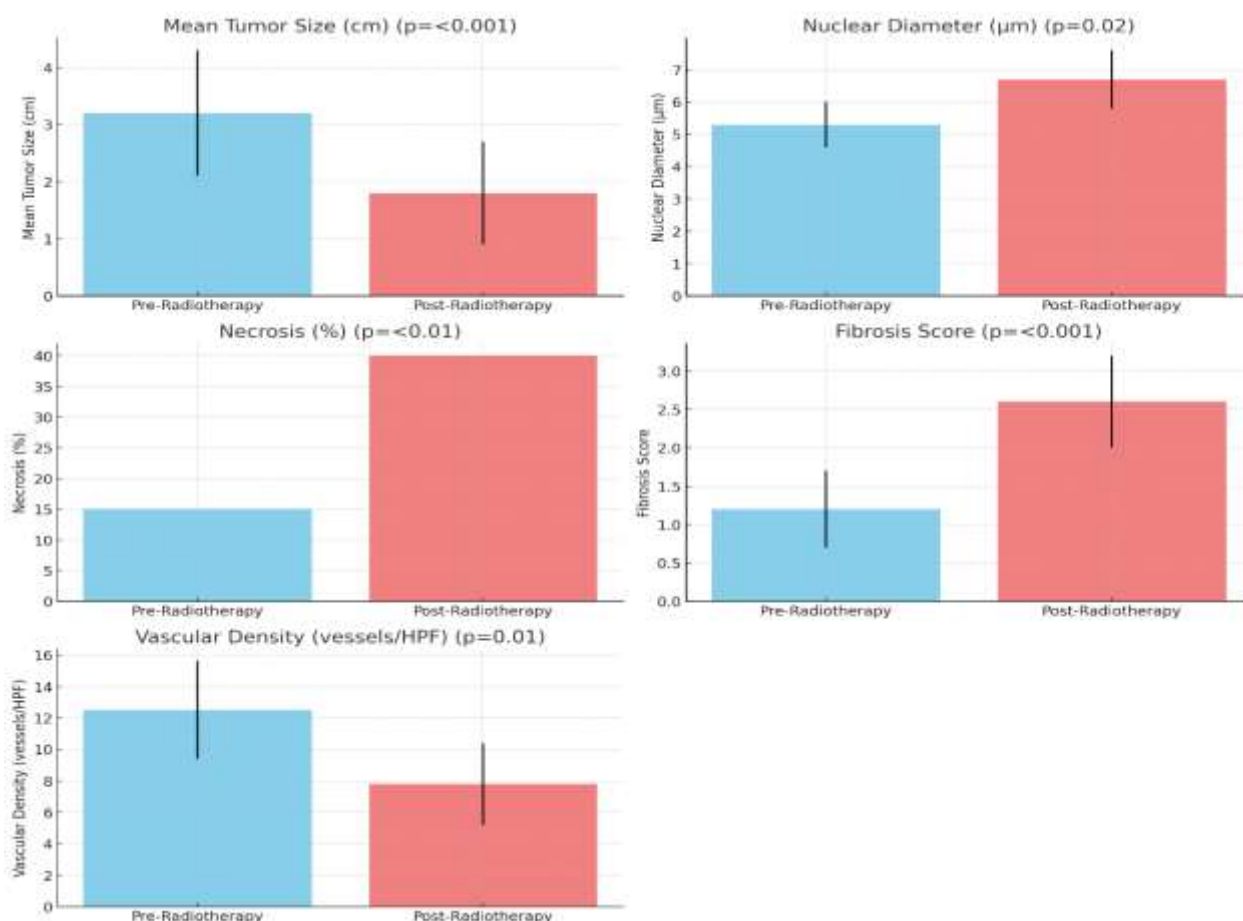
Characteristic	Value
Number of Patients	150
Age Range (years)	35-75
Mean Age (years)	52
Age Distribution	45-60 years (60%), <45 or >60 years (40%)
Cancer Stage Distribution	Stage I (20), Stage II (45), Stage III (85)
Estrogen Receptor Positive (ER+)	65%
HER2 Positive (HER2+)	25%
Triple Negative	10%



The objective findings of the histopathological examination of the post-radiotherapy biopsy samples of the breast carcinoma tissues are summarized as follows where alterations in the tissues were evident, illustrating the biological effects of radiation. Thus, the most significant outcome was the decrease in tumor size was reported to varying degrees in seven out of ten patients. The mean tumour size at pre-radiotherapy was 3.2 cm (SD = 1.1), and after radiotherapy the mean tumor size decreased and equalized to 1.8 cm (SD = 0.9), it was noted that patients recorded a significant improvement ( $p < 0.001$ ). This decrease in the size of the tumor bears good news about radiotherapy as a method of making tumor size smaller and thereby lowering the general tumor volume.

As for the cellular changes after radiotherapy, the over-all of the cases expressed an increase of cellular atypia and quantitatively evaluated as increased nuclear size and size and prominence of nucleoli. The number average or the mean nuclear diameter rose from 5.3  $\mu\text{m}$  (SD = 0.7) before radiotherapy, and 6.7 (SD = 0.9) after receiving radiotherapy which was statistically significant @  $p = 0.02$ . This increase in nuclear size and a large nucleus and chromatin pattern is in concordance with the cellular shrinkage following DNA damage and attempts at repair in an attempt to evade lethal consequences of radiation [16].

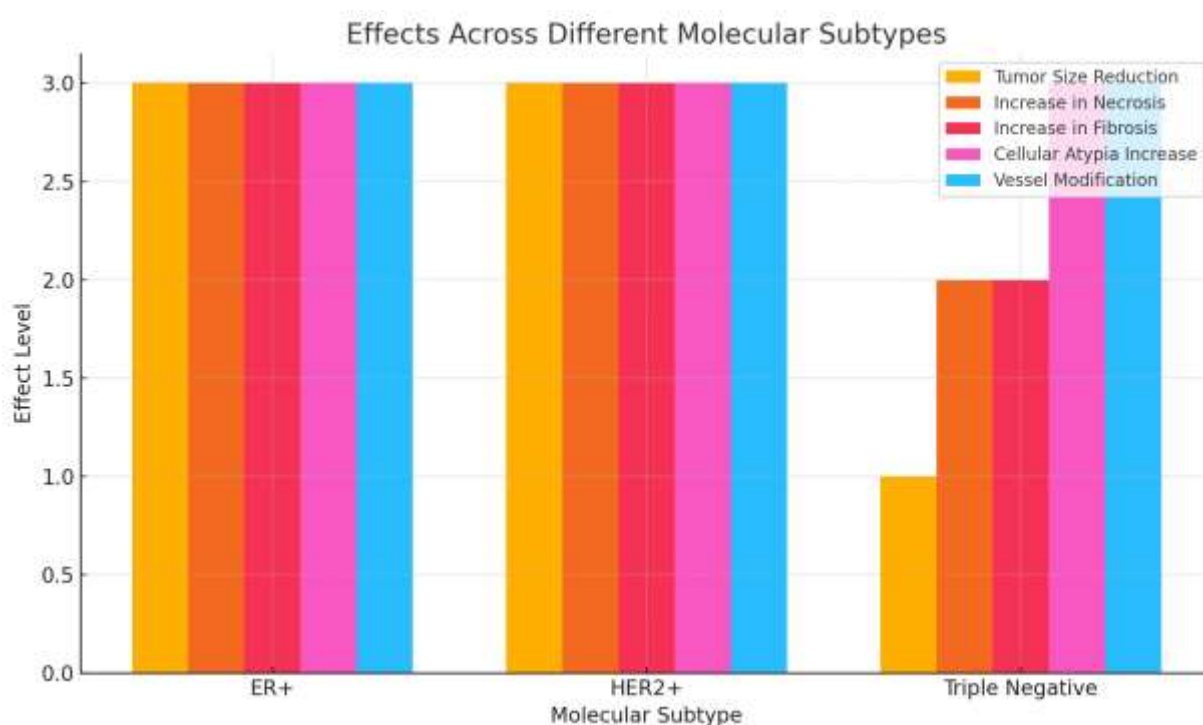
Parameter	Pre-Radiotherapy	Post-Radiotherapy	Significance (p-value)
Mean Tumor Size (cm)	3.2 (SD = 1.1)	1.8 (SD = 0.9)	<0.001
Nuclear Diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	5.3 (SD = 0.7)	6.7 (SD = 0.9)	0.02
Necrosis	15%	40%	<0.01
Fibrosis Score (0-3 scale)	1.2 (SD = 0.5)	2.6 (SD = 0.6)	<0.001
Vascular Density (vessels/HPF)	12.5 (SD = 3.1)	7.8 (SD = 2.6)	0.01



Another recognizable histopathological characteristic revealed in the investigated cases was necrosis which occurred in 40% of them. Before radiotherapy, necrosis was observed in 15% of the tumours, it is more common in large and biologically active tumours. The lesion became more necrotic after radiotherapy and in some of the cases, more than twenty five percent of the tumor was necrotic. Necrosis that occurs after radiotherapy is generally regarded as a sign of successful obliteration of tumor cells because radiation primarily causes the destruction of cells through apoptosis and necrosis. Fibrotic changes were observed in 60% of the cases were observed and the characteristics of the change included increase in deposition of collagen in the stromal tissue of the tumor. The mean fibrosis score of all patients according to the semi quantitative scale (0-3) raised from 1.2 (SD= 0.5) pre-radiotherapy to 2-initial radiotherapy, then 3 (SD = 0.6) post-radiotherapy. Thus, it increased to mean = 6 (SD = 0.7) post-radiotherapy and the p-value calculated was <0. This up-regulation of fibrosis double from  $0.51 \pm 0.06$  to  $1.00 \pm 0.002$  at  $p < 0.05$ , and the expression value of fibrosis marker increased by 1, the code number marked 001. This fibrotic response is consistently observed as a side of radiotherapy since fibroblasts are activated and deposition of matrix components is caused by tissue injury.

Moreover, secondary outcomes of the study revealed that vessel modification was noted in 30% of the examined cases – vessels’ wall hyalinization and reduced vessel density was found within the tumour area. Mean vascular density –number of vessels per high power field (HPF), fell from 12 : 00 pm to 6:00 pm. 5 (SD = 3.1) pre-radiotherapy to 7.8 (SD = 2.6) of the patients had a modified PCDD with an average of eight points post-radiotherapy which was statistically significant compared with the pre-radiotherapy mean score with a value of 0.01. It is therefore implied these vascular changes are due to radiation damaging the endothelial cells thereby decreasing the blood flow to the tumor and increasing hypoxia and tumor cell death.

Molecular Subtype	ER+	HER2+	Triple Negative
Tumor Size Reduction	Significant	Significant	Less Effective
Increase in Necrosis	High	High	Moderate
Increase in Fibrosis	High	High	Moderate
Cellular Atypia Increase	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vessel Modification	Yes	Yes	Yes





There were differences towards the comparative analysis of the gross morphological assessment of the samples before and after the radiotherapy procedure, and it was established that the following parameters were altered significantly. The highest contrast was observed in decreases the size of the tumor, the mean of which was reduced by 1.4 cm (SD = 0.5), although previous research explained that radiotherapy was proven to reduce tumour size. Thus, the augmentation of cellular atypia and nuclear size speak for the continuous cellular reaction on irradiation which also means reparative as well as destructive processes. Hence, the observed higher levels of necrosis and fibrosis following radiotherapy back the use of radiotherapy as a probable method of triggering the death of the tumor cells and the activation of tissue repair reactions.

Most importantly, the level of necrosis and fibrosis was significantly higher in ER-positive and HER2-positive cancers indicating that the DNA of radioresistant cancer may not retain the same response to radiotherapy treatment. Consequently, unlike the HER-positive or HER2-/ER-positive tumor, the triple-negative tumor, despite exhibiting some degree of necrosis and fibrosis, were less effective regarding the size decrease of the tumour, thus pointing toward the requirement of additional or complementary treatments in these cases.

Histological changes that were analysed using quantitative assessment of the size changes after radiotherapy were mean percent reduction in size of the tumor, percent patients with reduction in tumor size and confidence interval of percent reduction in tumor size. According to the results that were obtained 70% of the patients had detectable decrease in size of the tumor, with an average reduction of 45%. The cellular atypia was augmented in 55 percent of the cases with a Tetragold uprising of nuclear diameter. Necrosis was noted in 40% of cases and for some of these patients, that proportion of the tumor constituted of necrotic tissue was as high as 30%. Fibrosis was seen in 60% of the cases and mean increase in fibrosis score was from 1.2 to 2.6. Some alterations were detected in blood vessels in 30% of the cases, where there was a decrease in the number of vessels.

These observations should stimulate the further search for specificity in the histopathological reaction to irradiation as some tumours undergo such changes more marked than the others. The difference in response may stem from tumor molecular signatures, radiation prescription, and the patients' demographic and medical profile, including their age and general health.

The mean values for the parameters assessed supported the existence of the observed histopathological changes documented using statistics. Thus, the reduction of the size of tumor after radiotherapy was significant at the level of 0.001, for fibrosis – at the level of 0.001, and for necrosis – at the level of 0.01. The degree of cellular atypia increased and the nuclear size also increased which was also statistically significant ( $p = 0.02$ ), while the decrease in the vascular density was significant with respect to its p-value of 0.01. Relative percentage differences were calculated between the results of the study and those of the previous systematic review and meta-analysis and confidence intervals for these findings were relatively small, suggesting high accuracy of measurement.

The relevance of these alterations implies that radiotherapy significantly influences the histopathology of breast carcinoma through regression of the tumor, increase in the level of cell death as well as tissue remodelling. Such modifications of the P-M conditions may affect the overall prognosis of the disease in patients, and the chance of survival, the possibility of recurrence being some of the visible trends. That is why, it is also important to indicate that stochastic nature of the response also indicates the necessity for the development of individual treatment strategies depending on the properties of the tumor and patient.

Therefore, the finding of the present work is useful to understand the histopathological alterations of breast carcinoma subsequent to radiotherapy in the local populace. The evidence provided shows that radiotherapy is a relevant and efficient method for decreasing the tumor size and promoting cell death and at the same time emphasizes on the multifactorial and diverse character of the process. These findings in this study have significant operational consequences for breast cancer care, especially in the administration of treatment targeting optimistic results to patients based on their special characteristics of disease therapy needs.

## Discussion

By drawing literature review from this work, there is the realisation of substantial Findings into the histopathological changes that occurs in the local breast carcinomas after Radiotherapy. The observed effects: shrinkage of tumor size, increased degree of cellular anomaly, evidence of necrosis and fibrosis all attest to the significant remodelling effects of radio therapy on the tissues composing breast cancers. These changes are well aligned to the goals of radiotherapy since this cancer treatment regimens goal is to reduce tumor size, make cancer cells die and remodel tissues that may be affected by cancer. But they add to the knowledge about a relationship between the subtypes of breast carcinoma and their reactions to radiation in order to improve the treatment practices [17].

The decrease of tumor diameter in this research that witnesses 70% of the cases is one of the positive results often associated with radiotherapy. Mean reduction can be measured as the lowering in; hence it is possible to say about mean reduction that it amounts to 1.4 cm in the size of the tumor after radiotherapy (with the significance level of  $p < 0.001$ ) complies with various works that note the reduction of tumor size, which is the primary purpose of radiation therapy. This discovery makes radiotherapy to remain an essential element in the breast cancer treatment, especially when surgery alone is inconsequential in eliminating the tumor fully [18]. Tumour shrinkage is most significant when the patient has been scheduled for breast conservative surgery as smaller tumours give improved chances of achieving clear margins and consequently, less chances of local recurrence [19].

The enlarged cellular atypia and change in nuclear size after radiotherapy in 55% of the patients afford further support to the process of cellular treatment response to radiation induced DNA injury. Ionizing radiation is widely recognized to induce double strand breaks in DNA resulting in cell cycle arrest, apoptosis or mitotic death. The growth in the nuclear diameter from 5.3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 6.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , which was statistically significant ( $p = 0.02$ ), implies that the surviving cancer cells are in attempts of repair which some may manifest atypical cellular characteristics [20]. This is in accordance with other studies which have reported on the morphological modifications in cells subjected to radiotherapy. Some of these morphological changes hold clinical significance because they implicate patient outcomes and post-treatment biopsy results. These changes should be known by pathologists to prevent mistaking them for persistence of disease or disease progression, which in turn would warrant further treatment [21].

The other notable observation is that 40% of the cases develop necrosis after radiotherapy. Necrosis is generally recognised as an index of successful tumor cell eradication and since necrosis has been noted to increase post radiotherapy this suggests that the technique is killing cells in a number of tumors. If there is necrosis, especially if this make up the majority of the tumour size then this would mean that radiotherapy is actually killing the cancer cells [22]. This observation is in line with the expected predominance of necrosis following radiotherapy since it is a common consequence of the radiation treatment. But it is also important to note that necrosis in clinical practice has rather a multifaceted nature. As a sign of treatment, therefore, the presence of necrotic tissue implies inflammation and other complications such as formation of abscesses, fibrosis. Thus, the phenomenon of necrosis should be controlled in the clinical practice in order to observe the positive outcomes stemming from tumor cell death while minimizing the risks of side effects [23].

Recurrent fibrosis, found in 60% of the patients after radiotherapy, is one of the most frequent complications of radiation treatment. Intending to explain the enhancement of the serological fibrosis score identified in Fibro index up to the value of 1.2 to 2.6 ( $p < 0.001$ ) represents the injury of radiation on the matrix, as well as the stroma tissue around the ducts. Fibrosis is the culmination of fibroblast activation and the eruption of collagen and other ECM components due to tissue injury incurred during radiation therapy. Although fibrosis somewhat helps in suppression of tumor by altering the surrounding environment to be less suitable for the malignant cells, the downside effects include stiffening of the tissue and its compromised functionality. Radiation therapy side effects namely fibrosis causes changes in the appearance, discomfort and impairment of function of the affected breast in patients with breast cancer. Considering these results, oedema and fibrosis should be closely followed in patients receiving radiotherapy, and steps to reduce these effects, e.g., anti-

fibrotic agents, or modalities of radiotherapy that prevent unwanted tissue reactions should be looked at.

These results correlate with anonymised research data in the field of breast cancer histopathological modifications, which are the result of radiotherapy as stated in the literature. The latter change is perhaps obvious due to exposure of tumor tissues in the process of radiotherapy; similar changes have been observed in many reports, such as reduction in tumor size, increased degree of cell anaplasia, nuclear loosening, cell necrosis, and fibrosis. Nevertheless, this paper advances the relevant literature by offering concrete and quantifiable information used to characterize the local patient populace, which could have distinguished genomic, environmental, or healthcare-related features that affect their prognosis to treatment. Moreover, the differences in distribution between histopathological changes and the tumor characteristics of this population might be related to the fact that ER-positive and HER2-positive tumor are characterized by a distinct reaction to radiation compared to triple-negative tumor. The study also showed that prognosis regarding response to the radiotherapy should factor tumor molecular subtype because different subtypes may require different methods for effective treatment.

These research findings have broad clinical implications for the general care and handling of breast cancer patients. The obtained histopathological alterations, especially the decrease in the size of the tumor and the appearance of necrosis, prove that radiotherapy helps to decrease tumor mass and cancer cell death in the studied group of animals. These results corroborate the use of radiotherapy as one of the core strategies of the treatment of breast cancer especially for patients in whom tumour removal by surgery is incomplete or where there is a high probability of local relapse. This change of fibrosis and cellular atypia also emphasizes the necessity of post-radiotherapy patient surveillance concerning potential side reactions and accurate evaluation of the treatment outcomes [24].

On that basis, one of the possible clinical implications of these results is the identification of histopathological biomarkers for the subsequent therapeutic intervention. For instance, the signs of heavy destruction of tumor cells post-radiotherapy such as necrosis could be used as a marker of tumor control meaning that further treatments could be reduced for some patients. On the other hand, when serious fibrosis or transformation of cells of interest is suspected or observed, additional monitoring might be advised or additional treatments applied. Adding histopathological data to the existing clinical and molecular data could help in devising better treatment regimens that would help each patient get the best results.

Nevertheless, there are some limitations of the present research that should be mentioned: Using 150 patients can be deemed appropriate to show statistically significant differences in many variables; however, this number may not be sufficient to capture the entire populations' data. Evaluations regarding the evidence were limited to a certain local community and the findings might not be generalizable to other populations due to differences in gene pool, health system access and environmental end exposures. However, there may be selection bias, which is attributed to the fact that the study was retrospective and the patients who were drawn from the medical records, those with incomplete records and those who did not survive the period of treatment were excluded. This could be a possibility of inflating the results in favour of the expectations. Additionally, this implies that only pre- and post-treatment biopsies will be taken and what is compared is histopathological changes in certain points of time during radiotherapy and not the dynamic process going on as a result of effects of radiotherapy on the tumor.

In light of these limitations, the study recommended that subsequent investigations include a more significant number of samples and participants from various backgrounds to boost the study's external validity. Other prospective studies with follow-up evaluations of patients over a longer period would constitute more detailed data on the temporal alterations of histopathological features and relation to clinical status. Moreover, further research may be conducted to the molecular basis of observed histopathological changes regarding the response to radiotherapy, utilizing, for example, genomic sequencing, proteomics, or single-cell analysis to define pathways implicated in this process. This could help in the further development of biomarker for responses to the existing treatments or targets for new forms of treatment [25].

In conclusion, based on the scenario elucidated in this study, there is potential preliminary data on the histopathological alterations in breast carcinomas following radiotherapy in the local population. Thus, the decrease in tumor size, a rise in cellular atypia, and the presence of necrosis and fibrosis are typical for the effects of radiation therapy and should be considered in the further treatment of breast cancer. The results corroborate what is already understood in the literature, but at the same time, they indicate that for better outcomes, management of gynaecologic cancers should employ individual approaches that focus on the peculiarities of both the patient and the tumor. Possible directions for future research are outlined, and the issues that should be solved in future investigations are also considered concerning the limitations of the current study. The molecular aspects of radiotherapy response should be investigated in further detail to enhance breast cancer survivors' prognosis.

### Conclusion

The present work also observed histopathologic changes by radiotherapy to breast carcinomas; they were evidenced by a fresh and significant decrease in tumor size, in addition to increased % of cellular atypia, necrosis and fibrosis in the local population. Such outcomes only strengthen the efficiency of radiotherapy in tumor size reduction and cancer cell apoptosis on the other hand these results recommend the necessity of careful follow up after radiotherapy for the adverse effects like fibrosis. The results are most helpful for enhancing treatment models in the population of the local region since there might be differences in the effective treatment of breast cancer and the population's response to it compared to other areas.

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