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## Inflammatory breast cancer: An overview

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#### Abstract

Inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) is the most aggressive entity of breast cancer. Management involves coordination of multidisciplinary management and usually includes neoadjuvant chemotherapy, ablative surgery if a tumor-free resection margin is expected and locoregional radiotherapy. This multimodal therapeutic approach has significantly improved patient survival. However, the median overall survival among women with IBC is still poor. By elucidating the biologic characteristics of IBC, new treatment options may become available. We performed a comprehensive review of the English-language literature on IBC through computerized literature searches. The objective of the current review is to present an overview of the literature related to the biology, imaging and multidisciplinary treatment of inflammatory breast cancer. © 2014 Elsevier Ireland Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Inflammatory breast cancer; Molecular characteristics; Treatment; Surgery

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#### 1. Introduction

Inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) is a rare subtype of locally advanced breast cancer according to the tumor-node-metastasis (TNM) breast cancer staging system. IBC is classified as T4d and clinically characterized by diffuse in duration of the skin with an erysipeloid edge, usually with no underlying mass (Fig. 1) [1]. The objective of the current review is to present an overview of the literature related to the biology, imaging and multidisciplinary treatment of inflammatory breast cancer.

#### 2. Methods

The PubMed database was searched using the following terms (Fig. 2): "inflammatory breast cancer" successively complemented with "epidemiology" and "risk factors", "MRI" and "PET/CT", "chemotherapy", "surgery", "radiotherapy", "hormone receptors", "epidermal growth factor receptors", "tumor suppressor genes", "(lymph) angiogenesis" with the limits English, Publication Date from 1980/01/01, Humans, abstract available. We augmented this computerized literature search by manually reviewing the



Fig. 1. 46-year old women presenting with swelling and erythema of the left breast, caused by inflammatory breast cancer.

reference lists of included studies to identify additional relevant articles. We discarded duplicate publications. Filtered on title and abstract, we analyzed the manuscripts and articles were eligible when they reported a series of patients presenting with inflammatory breast cancer or when an overview concerning a specific subject with regard to inflammatory

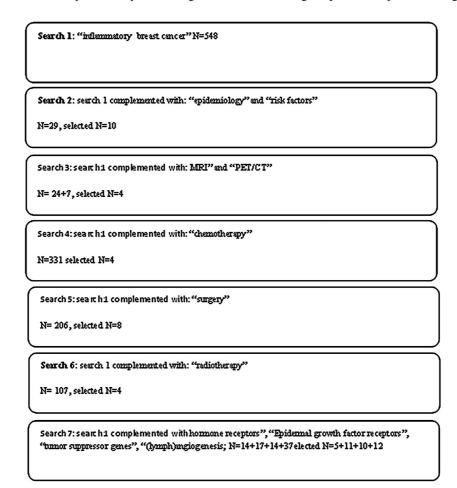


Fig. 2. Flowchart of literature search.

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