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## Breast cancer epidemiology in Gulf Cooperation Council countries: a regional and international comparison

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### Abstract

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed non-cutaneous malignancy among women living in Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The present paper aims to highlight similarities and variations in terms of breast cancer incidence, age at diagnosis, clinic-pathological features, molecular characteristics and lifestyle factors that contribute to an increasing incidence of breast cancer with neighboring Arab and westernized countries. The data presented whilst having important implications for policy makers, highlights the need for further research. Such research would ensure that effective prevention and detection strategies are tailored to the specific needs of the Gulf women so that the management of breast cancer is optimized.

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