

## **Paget's Disease of The Breast in Nigeria**

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**Background:** Breast cancer in Nigeria often presents at incurable stage. Paget's disease of the breast is rare but carries a good prognosis if recognized early.

**Objective:** To heighten awareness of the problem, to improve its recognition in its early stages.

**Methods:**The clinical presentation and the course of disease of twenty-two patients were seen in our breast clinic over a 10-year period with Paget's disease of the breast were reviewed. Five patients (Group 1) without associated mass were compared with 17 (Group 2) with an associated mass.

**Results:** Misdiagnosis due to non-recognition added 6.2 months to the mean delay of 18.4 months prior to definitive management. Patients without associated mass were alive at a mean of 104 months compared to 46.8 months in patients with associated mass ( $p < 0.001$ ). Survival was 50 months for Paget's disease with a mass, but negative axillary lymph nodes versus 32 months when a mass and positive axillary nodes were present ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** Familiarity with Paget's disease of the breast is mandatory for all medical personnel. Its visibly symptomatic presentation provides a chance for early diagnosis, early management, and an excellent prognosis.