Epidemiologic Risk Factors for Breast Cancer Related to Menopausal Status in Indonesia

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Abstrak

Untuk meneliti faktor risiko <u>kanker payudara yang berkaitan dengan status menopause</u>, dilakukanpenelitian kasus kontrol pada rumah sakit di Indonesia. Pada 300 kasus dan 600 kontrol yang berpasangan menurul umur dan keadaan sosial ekonomi dilakukan wawancara. Kasus dan kontrol dikelompokkan berdasarkan status menopausenya dan dianalisis terpisah. Diperoleh temuan-temuan bermakna berikut ini.Di antara penderita kanker payudara pra menopause ditemukan peningkatan risikopada yang mengalami trauma payudara (RR: 2,62; 95% JK: 1,09-6,31), menggunakan kontrasepsi oral (4,96; 1,51-16,24), mengkonsumsi susu (1,81; 1,01-3,35 konsumsi tiap hari versus nir konsumsi), makan buah segar (2,42; 1,16-5,05, 3-4x per minggu versus kurang dari seka li per minggu). Penurunan risiko ditemukan pada wanita pengkonsumsi sayuran tiap hari (0,34; 0,15-0,77, konsumsi tiap hari versus tidak tiap hari). Di antara penderita kanker payuda ra pasca menopause ditemukan peningkatan risiko pada wanita dengan usia menard1e 15 tahun atau lebih (2,25 \cdot 1,35-3,76), haid teratur setelah usia 30 tahun (4,61- \cdot 2,45-8,67), konsumsi susu (5,84; 2,92-11,66, konsumsi tiap hari versus nir konsumsi). Penurunan risiko ditemukan pada wanita yang cerai atau janda (0,33; 0,18-0,58), jumlah melahirkan hidup atau bayi yang disusuinya tinggi (0,32; 0,13-0,76), menyusui 6 atau lebih bayi versus tidak menyusui).

Abstract

To clarify the risk factors of breast cancer in premenopausal and postmenopausal women, a hospital-based case-control study was conducted in Indonesia. Three hundred incident cases were inlerviewed and 600 controls were selected, matching for age and socioeconomic class. Cases and controls were divided according to their menopausal status and analyzed separately. Following significant findi ngs were revea led. For premenopausal breast cancer, an increased risk was detected in women with breast trauma (adjus ted RR: 2.62; 95% Cl: 1.09-6.31), oral contraceptive u e (4.96, 1.51-16.24), milk consumption (1.81; 1.01-3.35, daily intake vs no intake), fresh frui ts intake (2-42; 1.16-5.05, 3-4 times/week vs less than once/week intake). A decreased risk was detected in women with cooked-vegetable intake (0.34; 0.15-0.77, daily intake vs not daily intake). For postmenopausal breast cancer, an increased risk wasfound in women having menarche at the age of 15 years or over (2.25; 1.35-3.76), regular menstruation after thirty years old (4.61; 2.45-8.67), milk consumption (5.84; 2.92-11.66, daily intake vs no intake), and a decreased risk in women who were divorced or widowed (0.33; 0.18-0.58), and whose number of live birth or breast-fed children was high (0.32; 0.13-0.76, six or more breast-fed children vs no breast-fed child).

Keywords :case-control study, premenopausal women, post menopausal women, breast cancer, risk factors

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Risk factors of breast cancer (BC) have been widely discussed, and different etiologic factors have been suggested related to menopausal status.^{1,6} BC risk has been reported to be negatively associated with the number of pregnancies. This protective effect may apply only to women whose BC was diagnosed at 50 years or older.7 A few studies suggest that parity may be associated with an increased risk of BC in young women.^{8,9}

In postmenopausal women, body weight and other indicators of weight (weightlhe%ht ratio) were positively associated with the risk, whereas in premenopausal women, a negative association has been reported between BC risk and weight.¹¹ BC risk in-

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creased in first-degree relatives of premenopausal BC patient, but not in relatives of postmenopausal BC patients.³ Lactation showed protective effect against premenopausal BC alone.^{3,6} The studies exemplified above strongly support the idea that premenopausal women differ from postmenopausal women concerning BC risk factors.

In view of the above differences, we have analyzed the risk factors in premenopausal and post menopausal women separately in this paper.

METHODS

Methodological details of the case control study design and data collection were already described in the preceeding paper. In this paper, cases and controls were grouped according to their menopausal status and were analysed separately. Relative risk (RR) with its 95% confidence interval (CI), computed as the exposure-odds ratio, was used as a measure of the associations between potentia 1 risk factors and BC. Trends were evaluated by the Mantel extension test.¹² To account for age, socioeconomic class, residence and other variables potentia lly confounded, unconditional logistic regression analysis¹³ was performed.

RESULTS

Out of 300 histologically diagnosed BC patients examined from December 1988 to November 1991 at Cipto Mangunkusumo Central Hospital, University of Indonesia, 135and 163patients were at premenopausal and postmenopausal status respectively. Two patients were at unknown menopausal status. The age distribution of cases and controls is shown in Table 1. Postmenopausal cases were significantly you nger than their controls (54.9 vs. 57.4 years old), whereas premenopausal cases were not significantly so (37.5 vs. 38.2 years old). Table 2 shows the mean and standard deviation (SD) of height, weight and obesity indices as BMI and waist / hip ratio. In postmenopausal women, controls were significantly taller by 1.2 cm, and slightly smaller in waist *I* hip ratio than cases. Excluding these differences, no other significant casecontrol differences were found in both premenopausal and post-menopausal study subjects.

Table 3 shows the RRs of breast cancer in premenopausal women obtained by univariate analysis. Breast trauma and the use of oral contraceptives significantly increased the risk. History of malignant neoplasm among relatives (mother, aunts or sisters) increased the risk by 91%, though the increase was not significant. The risk increased with increasing milkintake and amount of fresh fruits consumed; significant linear trends were found (chi-square for trend = 4.83, P<0.05 and 4.68, P<0.05 respectively). Daily intake of cooked vegetables significantly decreased the risk.

Table 1. Age Distribution of Cases and Controls in Premenopa usal and Postmenopa usal group

		Controls Number 30	% <u< th=""><th>Cases Number</th><th>%</th><th>Controls Number</th><th>%</th></u<>	Cases Number	%	Controls Number	%
14				Number	%	Number	%
	0.4	30	~!!				
60 4			<u>∖</u> u				
	4.4	163	49.5	10	6.2	4	1.5
59 4	3.7	124	37.7	33	20.4	31	11.4
2	1.5	12	3.7	52	32.1	115	42.4
				58	35.8	107	39.5
				9	5.6	14	5.2
135 10	0.00	329	100.0	162	100.0	271	100.0
	2	2 1.5 135 100.0	2 1.5 12 135 100.0 329	2 1.5 12 3.7 135 100.0 329 100.0	2 1.5 12 3.7 52 58 9 135 100.0 329 100.0 162	2 1.5 12 3.7 52 32.1 58 35.8 9 5.6 135 100.0 329 100.0 162 100.0	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

NS = not siguificant, 0.05 p > 0.01

Table	2.	Mean	Val ues	of Height,	Weight	and	Obesity	Indicators	
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	Prei	nenopausa l gro	oup		Postmenopa usal group				
	Number	Means :	1: S.D.		Number	Means :	1: S.D.		
Height (cm)									
Cases	133	153.4	:I: 5.1	NS	161	152.3	:I: 5.2		
Controls	324	153.4	:I: 5.0		269	153.5	:I: 5.4		
Weight (kg)									
Cases	134	49.6	:I: 8.8	NS	161	50.8	:I: 10.6	NS	
Controls	325	50.0	:I: 6.7		270	51.5	:I: 8.2		
Maximum weight (k	g)								
Otses	94	52.8	:I: 7.8	NS	119	54.8	:I: 10.9	NS	
Controls	223	52.5	:I: 7.9		211	55.5	:1: 8.6		
Waist (cm)									
Cases	133	70.0	:I: 7.9	NS	160	74.2	:1: 11.5	NS	
C'. ontrols	323	69.8	:I: 7.5		269	72.9	:I: 9.2		
Hip (cm)									
Cases	132	91.3	:I: 9.7	NS	161	94.1	:I: 13.3	NS	
O.rntrols	323	91.5	:I: 9. 1		270	95.0	:1: 10.6		
BMI (kg/m/m)									
Cases	133	21.0	:I: 3.3	NS	160	21.9	:1: 4.4	NS	
nrntrols	325	21.2	:1: 2.7		269	21.9	:1: 3.2		
Waist / hip ratio									
Otses	132	0.77	:I: 0.09	NS	160	0.79	:I: 0.09		
Controls	321	0.77	:1: 0.09		269	0.77	:1: 0.09		

NS = not significant, 0.05 = 0.01,

Factors	Cases	Controls	R.R.	95% C.1.	Trend
Breast tra uma					
Never	120	300	1.00	Reference	
Ever	15	13	2.88	(1.37 - 6.07)	
Pill use					
No	126	324	1.00	Reference	
Yes	9	5	4.63	(1.67 - 12.84)	
Malignancy among relatives					
No	107	290	1.00	Reference	
Yes	19	27	1.91	(1.03 - 3.54)	
Milk					
Never	38	98	1.00	Reference	4.83
Less than once/week	26	87	0.77	(0.43 - 1.37)	
Once-twice/week	21	59	0.92	(0.49 - 1.71)	
3-4 ti mes/week	12	32	0.97	(0.45 - 2.07)	
Daily	38	53	1.85	(1.06 - 3.23)	
Fresh fruits					
Never - less than once /week	23	86	1.00	Reference	4.68
Once-twice/week	13	47	1.03	(0.48 - 2.23)	
3.4 ti mes/week	28	40	2.62	(1.36:- 5.05)	
Daily	71	156	1.70	(1.00 -2.91)	
Cooked vegetable					
Not daily	18	14	1.00	Reference	
Daily	117	315	0.29	(0.14-0.58)	

 $0.05 \ge P > O.Dl$

Table 4	. Distri bution	of	Risk	Factors	i n	Postmenopausal	Group
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Factors	Otses	Controls	R.R.	95% C.I.	Trend
Marital status					
Married	86	95	1.00	Reference	
Separated or widowed	68 '	173	0.43	(0.29 - 0.65)	
Unmarried	9	3	3.31	(0.93 - 11.84)	
Height (cm)					
<1-SO	36	50	1.00	Reference	4.30
150 - 159	113	177	0.89	(0.54 - 1.45)	
i!: 160	14	44	0.44	(0.21 - 0.92)	
Waist / hip ratio					
< 0.70	28	65	1.00	Reference	5.53
0.70 - 0.79	57	101	1.31	(0.76 - 2.27)	
0.80 - 0.89	53	84	1.46	(0.84 — 2.56)	
i!:0.90	22	19	2.69	(1.27 - 5.67)	
Mena rche					
< 15 years old	71	92	1.00	Reference	18.31t
i!: 15 years old	175	95	2.36	(1.60 - 3.50)	
Regularity of menstruation over	30 years				
Irregula r	33	105	1.00	Reference	18.51t
Regula r	130	165	2.51	(1.60 - 3.92)	
Menopa usa 1 process					
Natural	144	263	1.00	Reference	
Induced	19	8	4.34	(1.97 - 9.57)	
Number of live birth					
None	25	22	1.00	Reference	26.07 t
1, 2	44	35	1.11	(0.54 - 2.28)	20.07
3-5	55	150	0.32	(0.17 - 0.61)	
i!:6	36	62	0.52	(0.25 - 1.03)	
Num ber of lactation	20			()	
None	29	27	1.00	Reference	28.83 t
1,2	45	33	1.00	(0.64 - 2.53)	20.001
3-5	56	153	0.34	(0.04 - 2.53) (0.19 - 0.62)	
2: 6	31	57	0.51	(0.19 - 0.02) (0.26 - 1.00)	
Smoki ng habi t	<i></i>	~ ·		(
Nonsmoker	148	259	1.00	Reference	
Current ex-smoker	148	12	2.19	(1.00 - 4.72)	
Milk	15	12	2.17	(1.00 - 7.72)	
Nilk Never	5 4	138	1.00	Reference	32.20 t
Less than once / week	54 24	63	0.97	(0.55 - 1.71)	52.201
Once-twice / week	24 20	27	1.89	(0.33 - 1.71) (0.99 - 3.63)	
3-4 time, week	15	9	4.26	(0.99 - 3.03) (1.85 - 9.81)	
Al most dai ly	50	33	3.87	(1.83 - 9.81) (2.29 - 6.55)	

0.05 2: P > 0.01, O.Ql 2: P > 0.001, to.001 2: P > 0.0001

Table 4 summa rizes the ris k facto rs for postmenopausal women detected by univariate analysis. Compared to married women, separated or widowed women were at a smaller risk, but umnarried women were at a greater risk. When the marital status was dichotomized into unmarried and ever married, then unma rried women showed a RR of 5.22 (95% Cl: 1.58-17.21). Height was inversely associated with BC (P<0.05), while the larger the waist I hip ratio, the higher the risk (P < 0.05). When compared to those with menarche at less than 15 years old, those with menarche at 15 years old or more had a higher RR. Regular me nst ru a ti o n a fter 30 years ol d a nd ind uced menopause increased the risk. Since the number of live birth and that of lactation showed very similar distribution, they showed similar RRs. When compared with nulliparous women, those with one or two births had a RR of 1.11 (0.54-2.28), 3-5 births 0.32 (0.17-0.61) and 6 or more births 0.52 (0.25-1.03); chi-square for trend being 26.07 (P<0.001). Similarly when compared to women with no breast-fed child, those with one or two breast-fed children had a RR of 1.27 (0.64-2.53), 3-5

children 0.34 (0.19-0.64) and 6 or more children 0.51 (0.26-1.00); chi -sq ua re for trend bei ng 28.83 (P<0.001). Compared to nonsmokers, current or exsmoker experienced a higher risk. Postmenopausal women who drunk milk less than once per week had a RR of 0.97 (0.55-1.71), once to twice per week 1.89 (0.99-3.63), 3-4 times per week 4.26 (1.85-9.81), almost daily 3.87 (2.29-6.55), when compared to nond rinker of milk; linea r trend bei ng signi ficant (P<0.001).

After being adjusted for age, socioeconomic class, residence and other variables potentially confounded, by u nconditiona l logistic regression analysis, the results (Table 5,6) were quite similar to those before adjustment. Association between BC with maligna ncy among relatives (premenopausal), height, waist *l* hip ratio, unmarried status, smoking habit and menopausal process (postmenopausa l) became insignificant or marginally significant. The number of live births was not included in the logistic regression analysis, since its distribution was very similar to that of the number of breast-fed children.

Factors	R.R .	95% C.I.	
Breast tra uma			
Never	1.00	Reference	
Ever	2.62	(1.09 - 6.31)	
Pill use			
No	1.00	Reference	
Yes	4.96	(1.51 - 16.24)	
Malignancy among relatives			
No	1.00	Reference	
Yes	1.99	(0.98 - 4.02)	
Milk			
Never	1.00	Reference	
Less than once/week	0.81	(0.42 - 1.54)	
Once-twice/week	0.99	(0.50 - 1.95)	
3-4 ti mes/week	0.97	(0.42 -2.23)	
Daily	1.81	(1.01 -3.35)	
Fresh fruits			
Never - less than once/week	1.00	Reference	
Once-twice/ week	0.70	(0.29 - 1.67)	
3-4 ti mes/week	2.42	(1.16 -5.05)	
Daily	1.40	(0.74 -2.66)	
O:ioked vegeta ble			
Not daily	1.00	Reference	
Daily	0.34	(0.15 -0.77)	

Table 5. Adjusted Relative Risks of Breast Cancer in Unconditional Logistic Analysis in Premenopausal Group

Factors	R.R.	95% C.I.	
Marital status			
Married	1.00	Reference	
Separated or widowed	0.33	(0.18 - 0.58)	
Unmarried	2.71	(0.31 -23.63)	
Height (cm)			
< 150	1.00	Reference	
150 - 159	0.74	(0.40 1.36)	
160	0.43	(0.17 - 1.13)	
Waist / hip ratio			
< 0.70	1.00	Reference	
0.70 - 0.79	0.99	(0.48 2.04)	
0.80 - 0.89	0.44	(0.20 1.00)	
0.90	0.81	(0.31 2.14)	
Menarche			
< 15 years old	1.00	Reference	
15 years old	2.25	(1.35 - 3.76)	
Regularity of menstruation over	r 30 years		
Irregular	1.00	Reference	
Regular	4.61	(2.45 - 8.67)	
Menopa usal process			
Natural	1.00	Reference	
Induced	2.54	(0.84 - 7.74)	
Num ber of lactation			
None	1.00	Reference	
1-2	1.15	(0.48 2.72)	
3-5	0.29	(0.13 0.63)	
6	0.32	(0.13 0.76)	
Smoking habit			
Nonsmoker	1.00	Reference	
C'.urrent/ex-smoker	2.33	(0.76 - 7.09)	
Milk			
Never	1.00	Reference	
Less than once / week	1.13	(0.55 - 2.33)	
Once-twice / week	2.26	(0.97 - 5.29)	
3-4 ti mes / week	7.96	(2.63 -24.13)	
Almost daily	5.84	(2.92 -11.66)	

Table 6. Adjusted Relative Risks of Breast Cancer in Unconditional Logistic Analysis in Postmenopa usal Group

DISCUSSION

In the present study, we found the association between premenopausal BC and breast trauma, oral contraceptive use, high intake of milk and fresh fruits, and low intake of cooked vegetable.

Benign breast diseases have been reported as BC risk

factor,^{11,14} but there have been no reports on the relationship between breast trauma and BC risk. Therefore, studies are required to confirm such association.

Many reports noted that the use of oral contraceptives did not affect BC risk,¹⁵-¹⁷ while our study revealed the contrary. This might be due to the small number of

pill users in our series, thus our finding might possibly be obtained by chance. In the present study, milk intake had positive association with BC risk and significa nt linea r trend was observed among both premenopausa l and postmenopausa l group. Milk might are group distant' fat which has long been in-

- Protective effect of cooked vegetables might be due to the vitamins, such as vitamin A and beta-carotene, though inconsistent resu Its²⁰⁻²² were reporte^d. The association between fresh fruits intake and premenopausal BC might be related to the level of total calory intake.²³

Associations between postmenopausal BC risk with marital status, age at menarche, regular menstruation

after thirty years old, induced menopause, number of live birth or breast-fed child ren and milk consumption were noted in this study.

Our study showed that unmarried women had 5.2 times higher risk than married women. Unmarried women had a higher risk, although some reports did not prove it. The reason why separated or widowed women were at a lower risk of postmenopausal BC was unclear.

Menarche at older age was associated with postmenopausal BC in this study, but this is not a common finding.^{11,25} Regula r menstruation before menopause is known to be a risk factor of BC,^{26,27} and our finding support this. Induced menopause was found to be a risk factor for postmenopa usal BC by our univa riate analysis, but not by logistic regression analysis. No risk difference was detected between natural and induced menopause.²⁸

An inverse linear trend between postmenopausal BC and the number of live birth *I* breast fed children remained significant after adjusting for age and other factors m our stu^dy. Many stu^d1es⁷ $n^{29,30}$ have reported that an increasing number of pregnancy or delivery has an independent protective effect. This protective effect was found more consistently in older or postmenopausal women. A few studies⁸ suggest that parity may be associated with an increased risk for BC in young women. These are in good agreement with our findings.

Postmenopausal women who had smoking experience had approximately a two-fold BC risk in our study, however, this was not significant by logistic regression analysis. Most reports suggested no clear association between BC and cigarette $\text{smok}'m_g \ h_a b_{its.}^{1}$ ^{31/32}

CONCLUSION

Our study disclosed some different BC risk factors in premenopa usa 1 and postmenopa usa 1 women . We found more risk factors and stronger associations in postmenopausal than in premenopausal women. Milk intake was a common risk factor, which might represent fat intake.

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