

Table 1 Knowledge of the risk factors for developing breast cancer and recommended approaches to control the disease according to occupation

Q #	Statements on breast cancer and its risk factors and control measures	Occupation				P-value
		Administrative	Teaching	Student	Total	
		No. ^a /No. ^b (%)	No. ^a /No. ^b (%)	No. ^a /No. ^b (%)	No. ^a /No. ^b (%)	
1	Breast cancer ranks the first in Iraq	26/65 (40.0)	18/38 (47.4)	64/269 (23.8)	108/372 (29.0)	0.001
2	Breast cancer is the commonest cancer in women worldwide	31/65 (47.7)	18/39 (46.2)	117/272 (43)	166/376 (44.1)	0.152
3	Mammography, ultrasound, PBE and BSE are used for early detection	25/68 (36.8)	15/39 (38.5)	126/272 (46.3)	166/379 (43.8)	0.002
4	In premenopausal women it is best to conduct BSE monthly, after the menstrual period	43/67 (64.2)	27/38 (71.1)	175/261 (67.0)	245/366 (66.9)	0.732
5	In postmenopausal women it is best to conduct BSE on a fixed day each month	28/69 (40.6)	16/38 (42.1)	79/258 (30.6)	123/365 (33.7)	0.530
6	Age increases the risk in women	37/68 (54.4)	28/39 (71.8)	167/268 (62.3)	232/375 (61.9)	0.182
7	Nulliparity increases the risk in women	33/67 (49.3)	27/39 (69.2)	148/270 (54.8)	208/376 (55.3)	< 0.001
8	Late menopause (over 55 years) increases the risk	30/65 (46.2)	20/38 (52.6)	136/264 (51.5)	186/367 (50.7)	0.522
9	Early menarche (under 11 years) increases the risk	12/64 (18.8)	18/39 (46.2)	75/264 (28.4)	105/367 (28.6)	0.202
10	Oophorectomy decreases the risk	7/64 (10.9)	18/39 (46.2)	37/261 (14.2)	62/364 (17.0)	<0.001
11	Postmenopausal obesity increases the risk	36/62 (58.1)	29/39 (74.4)	180/265 (67.9)	245/366 (66.9)	0.042
12	Oral contraceptive pills and HRT may increase the risk if used for > 5 years	25/64 (39.1)	15/37 (40.5)	95/266 (36.5)	135/361 (37.4)	0.851
13	Alcohol consumption may increase the risk in women	41/63 (65.1)	26/38 (68.4)	200/270 (74.1)	267/371 (72.0)	0.606
14	Exposure to radiation at a young age ^c in females may increase the risk	21/63 (33.3)	10/38 (26.3)	72/266 (27.1)	103/367 (28.1)	0.657
15	Treatments for breast cancer include surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and hormonal manipulation	39/63 (61.9)	25/39 (64.1)	163/269 (60.6)	227/371 (61.2)	0.370
16	Early detection is the best approach to breast cancer control	51/363 (81.0)	27/38 (71.1)	195/267 (73.0)	273/368 (74.2)	0.933
17	The increased risk in postmenopausal obese women is mainly due to raised endogenous estrogen levels	20/57 (35.1)	17/32 (53.1)	97/247 (39.3)	134/336 (39.9)	0.055
18	Preventive measures include alcohol abstinence, physical activity, healthy diet and body weight, avoidance of unprescribed hormonal therapy	35/56 (62.5)	24/38 (63.2)	201/266 (75.6)	260/360 (72.2)	0.025