Commentary on: Men and women show similar survival rates after breast cancer

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To the editors: With great interests, we read the article by Prof. Bender et al. (2017), which concluded that there was no significant difference in prognosis between male and female breast cancer cases.

It is well known that the prognosis according to the survival rates between males and females breast cancer cases have been controversial (Gnerlich et al. 2011; Foerster et al. 2011) up to date. The hormone status could obviously affect estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor expression, which could lead to the large differences of estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor expression between male and female breast cancer cases (Yu et al. 2015). The comparison of the prognosis according to the survival rates between males and females breast cancer cases, therefore, is reasonable according to the different hormone statuses of women. That is to say, the prognosis according to the survival rates should be compared between males, post-menopausal women and pre/peri-menopausal women breast cancer cases. The results and conclusion of the study by Prof. Bender et al. (2017) should be carefully interpreted and further assessed.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors have no conflict of interest related to the manuscript.

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