

7.0 CONCLUSION

This study confirms that most relapses occur within the first five years of diagnosis and patients with late relapse have better survival than early relapse. Survival of patients with relapsed breast cancer is associated with the site of first relapse. The prognosis is better for local and regional relapse compared to distant relapse. Clinicopathological factors are useful to predict risk of relapse in patients with breast cancer after completing treatment.

This is the first study to provide data on breast cancer relapse in Malaysia. The results will be an invaluable information for our clinicians in the management and counseling of patients with breast cancer.