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The effect of chemotherapy and cetuximab on the number and size of liver metastases in breast cancer

Vladimir Baltić

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Institute of Oncology Sremska Kamenica, Serbia & Montenegro; Address correspondence to: Prof. Dr. Vladimir Baltić, Institute of Oncology Sremska Kamenica, Institutski put 4, 21204 Sremska Kamenica, Serbia & Montenegro, E-mail: baltic.vladimir@onko.onk.ns.ac.yu;
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In 1998, a 39-year old patient underwent left breast mastectomy due to infiltrative ductal carcinoma. After surgery, the tumor was staged as T2 N0 M0. At that time, neither hormonal status was established nor was any therapy applied. In the beginning of 2005, multiple metastases in liver were found by a chance ultrasound examination of abdomen; the presence of metastases was also confirmed by MRI examination of the liver (Figure 1). ER, PR, and EGFR expression was defined by immunohistochemical analyses of the tumor. The obtained results indicated the application of chemotherapy according to CMF regimen and targeted therapy with monoclonal antibody - cetuximab (Erbitux®). After 4 months, the patient was examined by MRI and the findings showed significant reduction of the number and size of metastases in liver segments 6 and 8, mainly in the subcapsular region of the liver (Figure 1).

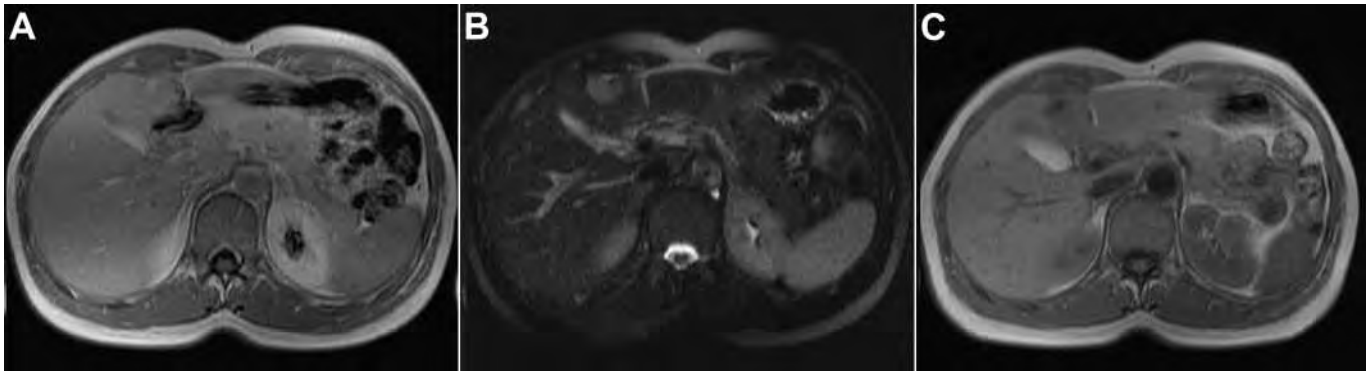

Figure 1. Liver metastases in breast cancer: A. Before treatment (postagadolinium contrast, T1W), B. Before treatment (T1W, haste), C. After treatment (T1W)