Household treatment cost of breast cancer and cost coping strategies of women in a tertiary setting

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Objective
The study is aimed at determining the household treatment cost of breast cancer and the cost coping strategies of patients at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

Methods
This study is a cross-sectional study 74 respondents. The study assessed medical and non-medical expenditure, a univariate and multivariate sensitivity analysis of cost elements, cost by reported financial and physical health status, time loss to patients and relatives, psychological burden of illness and the cost coping strategies adopted by households.

Results
The average household expenditure was GHS 5,407.40 (medical expenditure: GHS 4,311.90, non-medical expenditure: GHS 823, indirect cost: GHS 272.40). Majority of respondents experienced a low to moderate intangible cost (97%) and the cost coping strategy mostly used by respondents is the publicly provided strategy (60% utilisation rate). The time difference between diagnosis and treatment was statistically significant (p=0.001).

Conclusion
The cost of treatment especially medications increases year-on-year hence early detection and prompt treatment will reduce the economic burden on households.