

Management of Benign Phyllodes Tumours: a Dutch Population-Based Retrospective Cohort between 1989 and 2022

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Background

Phyllodes tumours are rare tumours of the breast, accounting for <1% of all breast neoplasms. Current NCCN guidelines recommend excision of benign phyllodes tumour, accepting close or positive margins. Controversy about the optimal treatment for benign phyllodes tumours remains, especially regarding the preferred margin size after surgical excision and the need for follow-up.

Methods

We performed a nationwide, retrospective study of the Dutch population from January 1989 to August 2022. All patients diagnosed with a benign phyllodes tumour were identified through a search in the Dutch nationwide pathology databank (Palga): information on age, year of diagnosis, size of the primary tumour, surgical treatment, surgical margin status and local recurrence was collected.

Results

1.908 patients with benign phyllodes tumour were included, of which 95% underwent breast conserving surgery. Median time to local recurrence: 31 months (IQR 15-61)

Absolute local recurrence rates:

- Overall: 6.2%
- Patients with negative excision margins: 4.0%
- Patients with positive excision margins: 8.9%

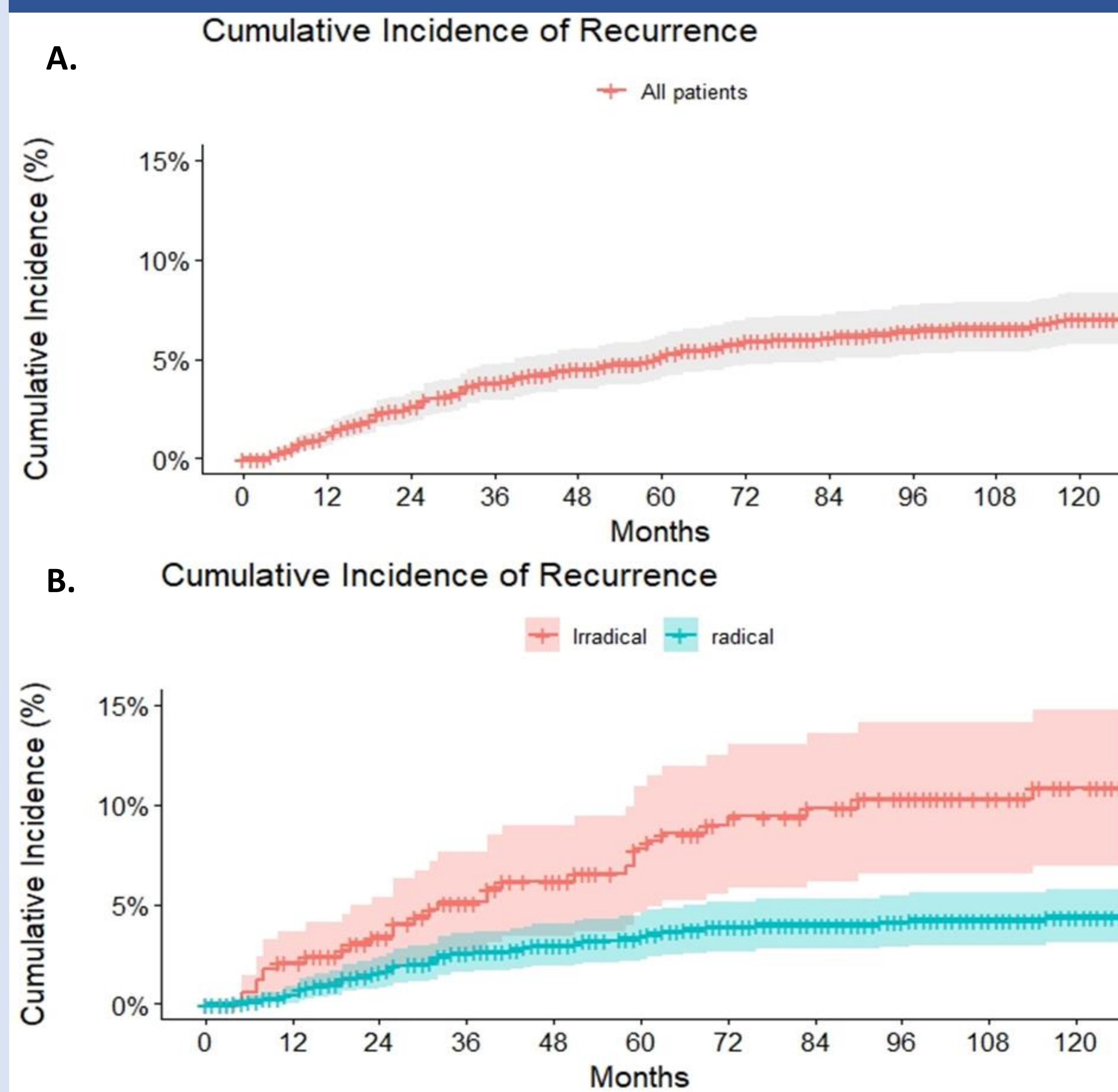
Factors associated with local recurrence:

- Bilaterality of the tumour: OR: 4.9 (95%CI: 2.9-28.3)
- Irradical margin status: OR: 2.5 (95%CI: 1.4-4.6)

Histological upgrading of the recurrent lesion:

- Found in 27 patients (22.6% of all recurrences), 7 of which recurred as malignant lesions

Cumulative incidence of recurrence in all patients (A) and according to surgical margin status (B)



Characteristics of patients with recurrence. N=119

	N	
Patients with recurrent lesions	119	(6.2%)
Time to recurrence (months)		
Median (IQR)	31	(15-61)
Range	4-202	
Number of recurrent lesions		
1	99	(66.0%)
2	13	(8.7%)
3	5	(3.3%)
5	2	(1.3%)
Margins status of primary tumor		
Positive	31	(26.1%)
Negative but no mm reported	33	(27.7%)
<1mm	11	(9.2%)
1-3 mm	1	(0.8%)
>3mm	0	(0%)
Not reported	43	(36.1%)
Surgery of local recurrence		
BCS	88	(73.9%)
Mastectomy	29	(24.4%)
No surgery performed	2	(1.7%)
Histological grading of recurrence		
Inconclusive FA/benign PT	2	(1.7%)
Inconclusive benign/borderline PT	3	(2.5%)
Benign PT	87	(73.1%)
Borderline PT	20	(16.8%)
Malignant PT	7	(5.9%)

Abbreviations: N, number of patients; PT, phyllodes tumor; BCS, breast conserving surgery; FA, fibroadenoma

Conclusion

The local recurrence rate of benign phyllodes tumours remains low (**6.2%**), even in case of positive margins (**8.9%**), **obviating the need for re-excision.**

When benign phyllodes tumours recur, it will most likely be benign with good treatment options, and therefore **we do not recommend follow-up.**

[Link to article:](#)

Disclosure of Funding and Conflicts of Interest: This study was funded by the Dutch Phyllodes Advocacy Group.

