Background

- The incidence of brain metastases in breast cancer patients is rising and has become a major clinical challenge in the last years.
- So far, limited therapeutic options and insights into the biology of brain metastases exist.
- Most reports on treatment effects include patients with brain metastases from different tumor entities. Few studies so far analyzed exclusively patient data and tumor samples from brain metastases of breast cancer patients, mostly of these single-center experiences.
- An open, multicentric registry and biobank should be helpful for documentation and analysis of a large number of breast cancer patients with brain metastases.
- Therefore we initiated the Brain Metastases in Breast Cancer Network Germany (BMBC, GBG 79). This project is performed as collaboration of the German Breast Group (GBG), University Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, AGO Breast Study Group (AGO-B) and the AGO Working Group Translational Research.

Database characteristics

- Registration of patient data is allowed retrospectively as well as prospectively (Inclusion and exclusion criteria, see Table 1).
- To enable an easy multicentric access, an internet-based database was chosen ("MedCodes" of the German Breast Group).
- Captured data include incidence, number and localization of brain metastases, histopathologic characteristics, imaging methods applied, outcome, therapy and quality of life measurement.
- Tissue of brain metastases and primary tumors will be collected separately for translational research projects (Figure 3).

Current Status (September 2015)

- 92 participating centers in Germany
- 1125 patients with clinical data
- Tissue sample collection and translational research was started
- The accrual target is 2000 patients in the database and collection of 450 tissues of brain metastases from the German centers (Fig. 2).

Objective

Table 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion criteria</th>
<th>Exclusion criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detected brain metastases (resection, imaging)</td>
<td>The history of other malignant diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A history of breast cancer</td>
<td>No histological verification of the diagnosis of breast cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis of brain metastases since 2000</td>
<td>A history of a neurological disease</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Contact

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Collaboration