Frontiers in Health Informatics
ISSN-Online: 2676-7104
www.healthinformaticsjournal.com
2024; Vol 13: Issue 8
Open Access

# Correlation Between Breast Cancer Receptors And The Mean Platelet Volume Ratio

**Sunil H, Vijayashree Singh Dr. Swaroop Mallesh ,**
Assistant Professor, Department of General Surgery, SIMS , Shimoga
Clinical Instructor/Tutor, AIIMS Rishikesh
Senior Resident, Dept. of Gen Surgery , Shivamogga Institute of Medical Sciences Shivamogga

Cite this paper as: Sunil H , ,Vijayashree Singh , Dr. Swaroop Mallesh (2024). Correlation Between Breast Cancer Receptors And The Mean Platelet Volume Ratio. *Frontiers in Health Informatics*, *13 (8) 6528-6534*

**Abstract:**

***Background:***

*Women worldwide die most from breast cancer. To understand cancer prognosis, tumour markers, receptor status, and haematological parameters have been correlated. This study examined the association between breast cancer receptor status (ER, PR, and HER2) and the Mean Platelet Volume (MPV) ratio, an emerging haematological diagnostic. An changed MPV ratio may connect with breast cancer aggressiveness and receptor status.*

***Methods:*** *A retrospective cohort research at SIMS Hospital, Shivamogga, from January 2022 to June 2024. From medical records, 30 breast cancer patients were included. The study included pre-treatment blood tests to obtain clinical demographics, histopathological findings, receptor status (ER, PR, HER2), and MPV values. MPV and MPV ratio were computed for each subject. Chi-square testing and Pearson correlation analysis established the receptor status-MPV ratio relationship.Study results indicate a substantial link between MPV ratio and receptor status, with larger ratios in ER-negative, PR-negative, and HER2-positive breast cancer subtypes among 30 patients. Compared to other receptor status groups, HER2-positive individuals had a substantially higher mean MPV ratio ($p < 0.05$). MPV ratio did not correlate with tumour grade or stage.*

***Conclusion :****This study suggests that MPV ratio might be a cost-effective tool to determine breast cancer aggressiveness, in addition to receptor status. Higher MPV ratios were linked to more aggressive receptor profiles, especially in HER2-positive patients. MPV ratio as a breast cancer biomarker needs more prospective trials to prove its therapeutic value.*

***Keywords:***

Breast Cancer, Receptor Status, MPV Ratio Title:

## 1. Introduction

Breast cancer is the most often diagnosed form of cancer and the main cause of death among women globally due to cancer-related causes. It is estimated that around 2.3 million new instances of breast cancer are identified each year [1]. The molecular expression of hormone receptors, such as the oestrogen receptor (ER), the progesterone receptor (PR), and the human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), has a substantial impact on the categorisation of breast cancer as well as the prognosis of the disease. ER and PR positive, on the other hand, is often linked with a better prognosis, whilst HER2 positivity is frequently associated with more aggressive illness but responds well

to targeted treatments [2,3]. These receptor subtypes not only guide therapeutic options but also give insights into the prognosis.

Recently, there has been a movement in attention towards the investigation of haematological biomarkers that may correlate with cancer biology. This is in addition to the standard histological characteristics. Mean Platelet Volume (MPV) is an index that is obtained from whole blood counts and indicates platelet activity and size. It is one of the parameters that describes this phenomenon. MPV is becoming more well recognised as a surrogate measure of systemic inflammation. It has also been linked to the development of tumours, the formation of new blood vessels, and the presence of metastases in a number of cancers, including lung, colorectal, and breast cancers for example [4,5].

As a result of their ability to shield circulating tumour cells, enhance immune evasion, and promote vascular remodelling and metastasis, platelets play an essential role in the microenvironment of a tumour [6]. It is believed that elevated levels of MPV are a reflection of enhanced platelet turnover and activation, both of which are frequently detected in aggressive malignancies. As the amount of data continues to expand, it has been suggested that MPV might be used as a marker for the progression and prognosis of tumours that is both inexpensive and easily accessible [7,8]. This study was conducted with the purpose of determining whether or not there is a correlation between the MPV ratio and the presence of breast cancer receptors in patients who were being treated at SIMS Hospital in Shivamogga. More aggressive subtypes of breast cancer, in particular those that are ER-negative, PR-negative, and HER2-positive—subtypes that are known to be linked with poorer clinical outcomes and greater proliferative indices [9,10]—are thought to be associated with higher MPV ratios, according to the hypothesis.

**Materials and Methods**

This retrospective cohort study was conducted at SIMS Hospital, Shivamogga, covering the period from January 2022 to June 2024. The study included 30 female breast cancer patients who underwent surgery and had complete medical records, including pre-treatment blood tests and receptor status data. All patients were aged 30 to 70 years.

The inclusion criteria consisted of patients diagnosed with primary breast cancer who had available data on receptor status (ER, PR, HER2) and MPV values from pre-treatment blood samples. Patients with incomplete medical records, prior hematological disorders, or metastatic disease were excluded.

Demographic data, clinical characteristics, and histopathological findings (tumor grade and stage) were collected. Receptor status was determined through immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing, and MPV was derived from routine pre-treatment blood tests. MPV was calculated as the volume of platelets divided by their total count to determine the MPV ratio for each patient.

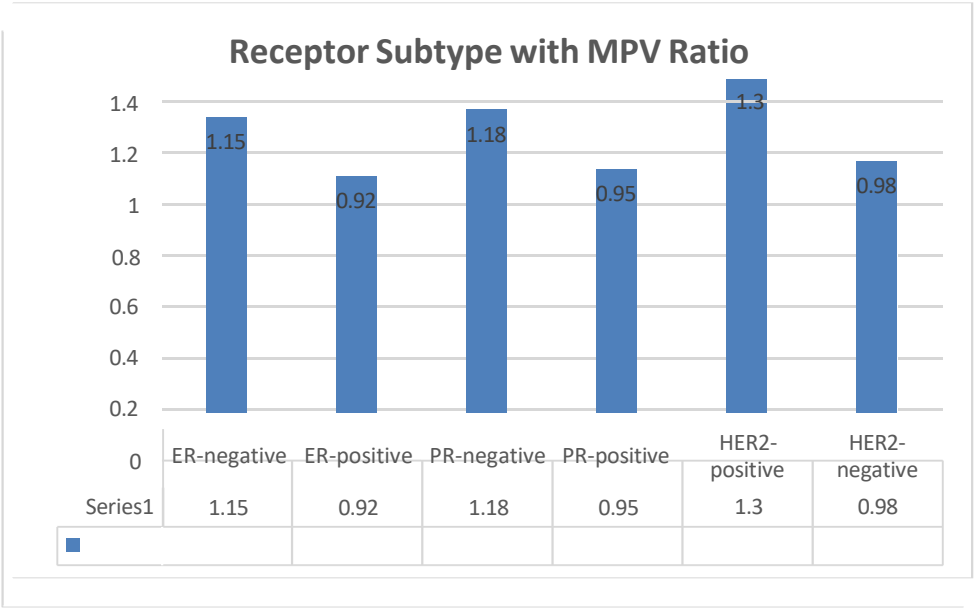
Statistical analysis involved the use of descriptive statistics for patient demographics, tumor characteristics, and receptor status. Chi-square tests were employed to assess associations the strength and direction of the relationship between MPV ratio and receptor status. A p- value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results**

A total of 30 breast cancer patients were included in the study. The mean age of the patients was 54.3 years (range: 30-70 years). The distribution of receptor status was as follows: 10 patients were ER-negative, 15 were PR-negative, and 12 were HER2-positive.

The MPV ratios varied significantly across different receptor subtypes. In the ER-negative and PR-negative subgroups, the mean MPV ratio was significantly higher compared to their ER- positive and PR-positive counterparts. HER2-positive patients had the highest mean MPV ratio ($p < 0.05$) when compared to both HER2-negative patients and the other receptor status subgroups.

Pearson correlation analysis revealed a significant positive correlation between MPV ratio and HER2-positive receptor status ($r = 0.65$, $p < 0.05$). However, no significant correlation was found between MPV ratio and tumor grade or stage, indicating that the MPV ratio is more strongly associated with receptor status rather than tumor aggressiveness as measured by histological grade.




**Graph 1:** Summary of MPV ratios for each receptor

**Table 1: Demographic, Clinical Features, Histopathological** Examination, and Surgical Details of the Breast Cancer Patients

| Variable | Total (N=30) | ER-negative (n=10) | ER-positive (n=20) | PR-negative (n=15) | PR-positive (n=15) | HER2-positive (n=12) | HER2-negative (n=18) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age (Years)** | 54.2 ± 8.7 | 56.4 ± 7.3 | 53.1 ± 9.2 | 55.8 ± 8.4 | 52.7 ± 9.4 | 57.3 ± 7.8 | 52.3 ± 9.1 |
| **Comorbidities** | | | | | | | |
| - Hypertension | 12 (40%) | 4 (40%) | 8 (40%) | 5 (33.3%) | 7 (46.7%) | 6 (50%) | 6 (33.3%) |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - Diabetes | 8 (26.7%) | 3 (30%) | 5 (25%) | 4 (26.7%) | 4 (26.7%) | 3 (25%) | 5 (27.8%) |
| **Tumor Grade** | | | | | | | |
| - Grade I | 6 (20%) | 2 (20%) | 4 (20%) | 2 (13.3%) | 4 (26.7%) | 3 (25%) | 3 (16.7%) |
| - Grade II | 18 (60%) | 5 (50%) | 13 (65%) | 10 (66.7%) | 8 (53.3%) | 8 (66.7%) | 10 (55.6%) |
| - Grade III | 6 (20%) | 3 (30%) | 3 (15%) | 3 (20%) | 3 (20%) | 1 (8.3%) | 5 (27.8%) |
| **Tumor Stage** | | | | | | | |
| - Stage I | 4 (13.3%) | 2 (20%) | 2 (10%) | 3 (20%) | 1 (6.7%) | 1 (8.3%) | 3 (16.7%) |
| - Stage II | 18 (60%) | 6 (60%) | 12 (60%) | 8 (53.3%) | 10 (66.7%) | 8 (66.7%) | 10 (55.6%) |
| - Stage III | 8 (26.7%) | 2 (20%) | 6 (30%) | 4 (26.7%) | 4 (26.7%) | 3 (25%) | 5 (27.8%) |
| **Surgical Procedure** | | | | | | | |
| - Mastectomy | 22 (73.3%) | 8 (80%) | 14 (70%) | 10 (66.7%) | 12 (80%) | 10 (83.3%) | 12 (66.7%) |
| - Breast-Conserving Surgery | 8 (26.7%) | 2 (20%) | 6 (30%) | 5 (33.3%) | 3 (20%) | 2 (16.7%) | 6 (33.3%) |
| **Lymph Node Involvement** | | | | | | | |
| - Positive Lymph Nodes | 14 (46.7%) | 5 (50%) | 9 (45%) | 7 (46.7%) | 7 (46.7%) | 6 (50%) | 8 (44.4%) |
| - Negative Lymph Nodes | 16 (53.3%) | 5 (50%) | 11 (55%) | 8 (53.3%) | 8 (53.3%) | 6 (50%) | 10 (55.6%) |
| **Surgical Duration (hrs)** | 3.6 ± 0.5 | 3.8 ± 0.4 | 3.5 ± 0.6 | 3.6 ± 0.5 | 3.6 ± 0.4 | 3.7 ± 0.6 | 3.5 ± 0.5 |

## 3. Discussion

**4.** The results of this research indicate that there is an association that is statistically significant between higher MPV ratios and particular receptor subtypes in breast cancer. These subtypes include HER2-positive, ER-negative, and PR- negative subtypes. Increasing platelet activation, as shown by a larger MPV, may be related with more aggressive tumour biology [4,11]. These data are similar with studies that have been published in

the past and give support to the hypothesis that this association exists.

The dynamic interaction that occurs between tumour cells and circulating platelets is the source of the biological plausibility of this connection among individuals. Through the secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines and pro-thrombotic mediators, tumour cells have the ability to cause platelets to aggregate and become activated. This contact between platelets and tumours enhances the survival of tumour cells in the circulation, promotes the development of new blood vessels, and contributes to the process of metastatic colonisation [12,13]. When HER2-positive breast cancer is present, there is a possibility that enhanced cytokine activity and increased vascular proliferation may further drive platelet synthesis and turnover, which will ultimately result in higher MPV values [14].

HER2-positive patients had the greatest mean MPV ratio (1.30) in the current research, compared to HER2-negative patients (0.98), with comparable patterns reported in ER- and PR-negative groups. HER2-negative patients had the lowest mean MPV ratio (0 percent). According to Chang et al. and Anderson et al., who observed higher MPV values in aggressive breast cancer phenotypes [10,11], these findings are consistent with those of the aforementioned researchers. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the Pearson correlation analysis conducted in our study demonstrated a moderate-to-strong positive association between the ratio of MPV and the status of HER2 ($r = 0.65$, $p < 0.05$). This finding further supports the possibility of MPV serving as a marker for aggressive illness.

The MPV ratio did not exhibit a statistically significant link with either the grade or stage of the tumour, which is an interesting finding. Rather than the typical histological development, this shows that MPV may represent biological aggressiveness at the molecular level, particularly behaviour that is mediated by receptors. According to previous research, MPV is more of an early indicator of tumour biology than it is a measure of tumour load [6,9]. This finding is consistent with findings from those studies.

When it comes to predicting the aggressiveness of tumours, molecular pattern recognition (MPV) is a test that is not only affordable but also widely available. It has the potential to be used in conjunction with immunohistochemistry. It is possible that this might be especially useful in situations where there are limited resources and access to molecular profiling may be restricted. However, despite the fact that our research reveals some encouraging links, any interpretation must be approached with caution due to the retrospective nature of the study and the small sample size.

In order to assess whether or not MPV can be consistently included into clinical prognostic models, it is vital that further research be conducted with bigger patient cohorts and prospective validation must be conducted. Platelet distribution width (PDW), platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR), and treatment response data are some of the other characteristics that might potentially expand our understanding of the platelet-tumor interface.

**Conclusion**

According to the results of a retrospective study conducted at SIMS Hospital in Shivamogga, there is a correlation between the presence of breast cancer receptors and the mean platelet volume ratio. The results of this study indicate that there is a substantial association between the MPV ratio and the treatment status of breast cancer receptors, particularly in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer. Platelet activation, as evaluated by MPV, may be a valuable biomarker for measuring tumour aggressiveness, as evidenced by the fact that higher MPV ratios were detected in breast cancer subtypes that were ER-negative, PR-negative, and HER2-positive.

When it comes to detecting aggressive breast cancer subtypes, MPV has the potential to be a supplemental diagnostic tool that is also inexpensive. This is especially true in situations where access to more advanced biomarker testing is less readily available. Nevertheless, more prospective studies with bigger sample numbers are required in order to verify these findings and investigate the significance of MPV as a possible prognostic tool in the therapy of breast cancer.

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