Supplementary Table 2. Baseline Characteristics of the Unmatched Cohort

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables** | **Before propensity score matching** | | | | |
| **Non-ACU treatment (*n* = 28,976)** | | **ACU treatment (*n* = 2,055)** | | ***p*** |
| ***N*** | **%** | ***N*** | **%** |
| Sex |  |  |  |  | 0.822 |
| Female | 28,883 | 99.7 | 2,049 | 99.7 |  |
| Age groups (y) |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| < 35 | 1,233 | 4.3 | 62 | 3.0 |  |
| 35-44 | 6,825 | 23.6 | 386 | 18.8 |  |
| 45-54 | 11,085 | 38.3 | 744 | 36.2 |  |
| 55-64 | 6,160 | 21.3 | 398 | 19.4 |  |
| 65-74 | 2,824 | 9.8 | 345 | 16.8 |  |
| 75-84 | 782 | 2.7 | 114 | 5.6 |  |
| ≥ 85 | 67 | 0.2 | 6 | 0.3 |  |
| Insurance type |  |  |  |  | 0.001 |
| NHI | 28,117 | 97.0 | 1,966 | 95.7 |  |
| Medical Aid | 859 | 3.0 | 89 | 4.3 |  |
| CCI |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| 0 | 24,752 | 85.4 | 1,658 | 80.7 |  |
| 1-2 | 3,300 | 11.4 | 314 | 15.3 |  |
| 3- | 924 | 3.2 | 83 | 4.0 |  |
| Income quintile |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| 1st | 859 | 3.0 | 89 | 4.3 |  |
| 2nd | 5,565 | 19.2 | 354 | 17.2 |  |
| 3rd | 5,449 | 18.8 | 334 | 16.3 |  |
| 4th | 6,657 | 23.0 | 450 | 21.9 |  |
| 5th | 10,446 | 36.1 | 828 | 40.3 |  |
| Operation type |  |  |  |  | 0.005 |
| SLNB | 5,068 | 17.5 | 417 | 20.3 |  |
| ALND | 23,469 | 81.0 | 1,605 | 78.1 |  |
| Reoperation within 0-2 months | 439 | 1.52 | 33 | 1.6 |  |
| Neoadjuvant chemotherapy |  |  |  |  | 0.011 |
| Yes | 5,091 | 17.6 | 316 | 15.4 |  |
| No. of sessions |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| 1-3 | 3,306 | 11.4 | 139 | 6.8 |  |
| 4-6 | 1,748 | 6.0 | 175 | 8.5 |  |
| 7-9 | 37 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.1 |  |
| Comorbid conditions |  |  |  |  |  |
| Anaemia | 606 | 2.1 | 59 | 2.9 | 0.018 |
| Anxiety disorder | 558 | 1.9 | 67 | 3.3 | < 0.001 |
| Chronic low back pain | 7,140 | 24.6 | 904 | 44.0 | < 0.001 |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 544 | 1.9 | 69 | 3.4 | < 0.001 |
| Chronic liver disease | 804 | 2.8 | 78 | 3.8 | 0.007 |
| COPD | 110 | 0.4 | 12 | 0.6 | 0.153 |
| Cardiovascular disease | 817 | 2.8 | 86 | 4.2 | < 0.001 |
| Dementia | 100 | 0.4 | 8 | 0.4 | 0.742 |
| Depressive disorder | 604 | 2.1 | 55 | 2.7 | 0.072 |
| Diabetes mellitus | 1,804 | 6.2 | 164 | 8.0 | 0.002 |
| Hyperlipidemia | 1,588 | 5.5 | 134 | 6.5 | 0.047 |
| Hypertension | 5,099 | 17.6 | 450 | 21.9 | < 0.001 |
| Osteoarthritis | 3,783 | 13.1 | 479 | 23.3 | < 0.001 |
| Osteoporosis | 1,140 | 3.9 | 133 | 6.5 | < 0.001 |
| Rheumatoid arthritis | 379 | 1.3 | 37 | 1.8 | 0.061 |
| Renal failure | 121 | 0.4 | 11 | 0.5 | 0.428 |
| Schizophrenia | 107 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.1 | 0.044 |
| Sleep disorder | 609 | 2.1 | 84 | 4.1 | < 0.001 |
| Adjuvant radiotherapy\* |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| Yes | 14,882 | 51.4 | 1,175 | 57.2 |  |
| No. of sessions |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| 0 | 14,094 | 48.6 | 880 | 42.8 |  |
| 1-10 | 3,881 | 13.4 | 245 | 11.9 |  |
| 11-20 | 1,210 | 4.2 | 59 | 2.9 |  |
| 21-30 | 4,394 | 15.2 | 370 | 18.0 |  |
| 31- | 5,397 | 18.6 | 501 | 24.4 |  |
| Adjuvant chemotherapy\* |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| Yes | 18,565 | 64.1 | 776 | 37.8 |  |
| No. of sessions |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| 0 | 10,411 | 35.9 | 1,279 | 62.2 |  |
| 1-3 | 1,574 | 5.4 | 99 | 4.8 |  |
| 4-6 | 8,824 | 30.5 | 397 | 19.3 |  |
| 7-9 | 6,114 | 21.1 | 212 | 10.3 |  |
| 10- | 2,053 | 7.1 | 68 | 3.3 |  |
| Adjuvant taxane treatments\* |  |  |  |  | < 0.001 |
| Yes | 6,569 | 22.7 | 181 | 8.8 |  |
| Outcomes |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lymphedema | 3,845 | 13.3 | 229 | 11.1 | 0.006 |
| Death within 4y follow-up | 1,026 | 3.5 | 72 | 3.5 | 0.930 |

\*Followed up until incidence of lymphedema or until the end of 4-year follow-up

ICD-10 = International Classification of Diseases 10th revision; SLNB = sentinel lymph node biopsy; ALND = axillary lymph node dissection; COPD = Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; NHI = National Health Insurance.