

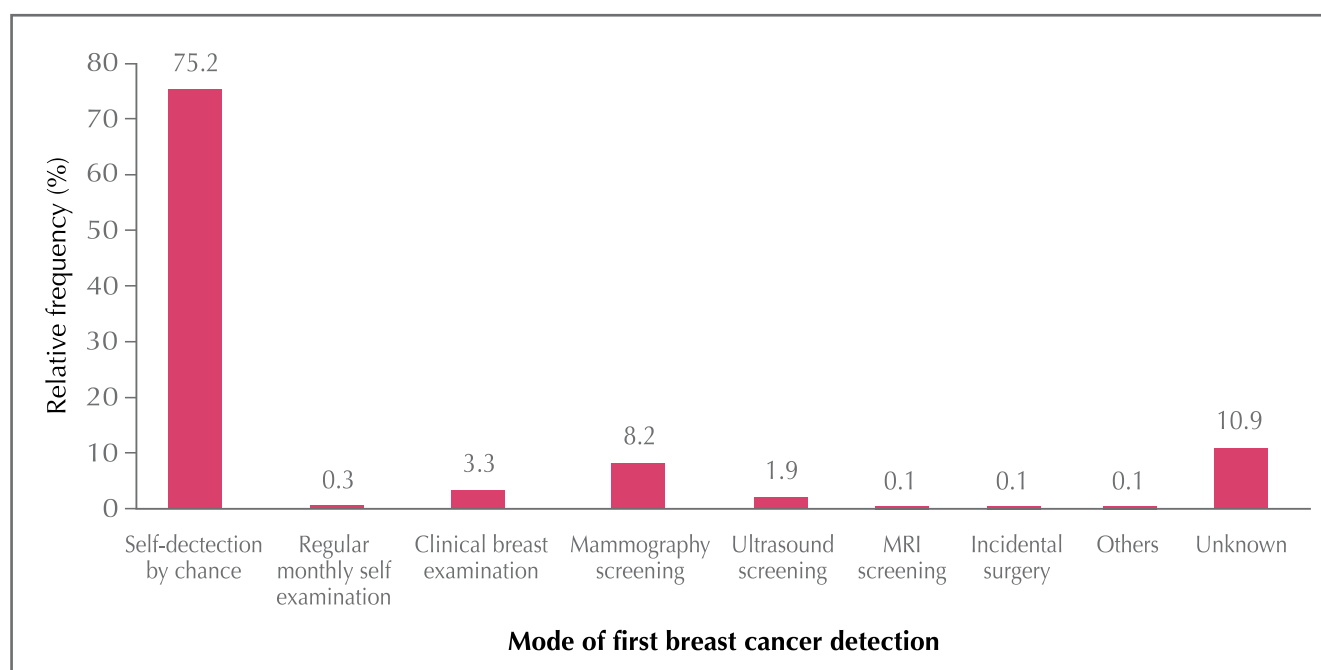


## 2.1 Clinical characteristics

### *Mode of breast cancer detection*

Of the 3,467 breast cancer cases, 75.2% were detected by the patients themselves by chance; 13.8% were detected through breast screening modalities including breast self-examinations (0.3%), clinical breast examinations (3.3%), mammography screening (8.2%), breast ultrasound screening (1.9%) and magnetic resonance imaging (0.1%) (Figure 2.1.1).

**Figure 2.1.1 Mode of first breast cancer detection in the patient cohort (N=3,467)**



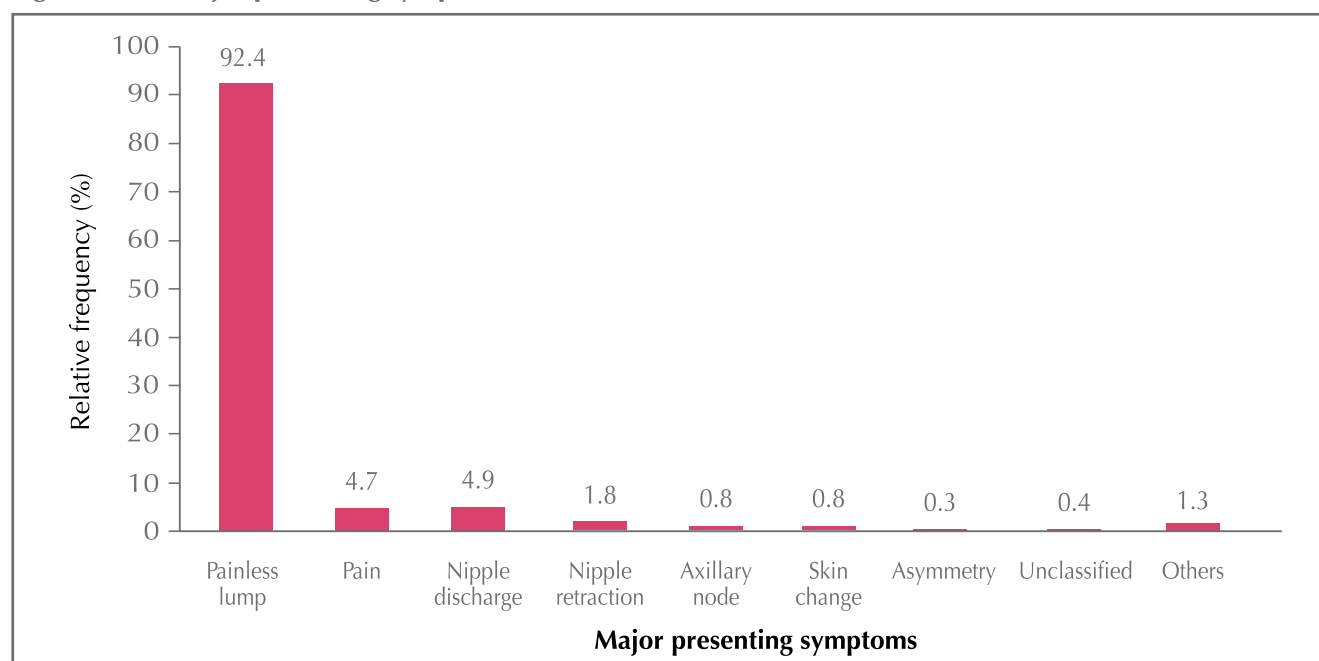
The proportions of screen-detected breast cancer by mammography screening and by ultrasound screening were higher in the private sector than in the public sector. The differences were 6.9 and 3.9 percentage points respectively.

**Table 2.1.1 Mode of first breast cancer detection by type of medical service attended**

	Private sector (N=833)	Public sector (N=1,335)	Mixed private/public sector (N=1,299)
Mode of first breast cancer detection	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)
Self-detection by chance	570 (68.4%)	1,016 (76.1%)	1,021 (78.6%)
Monthly self-examination	5 (0.6%)	2 (0.1%)	4 (0.3%)
Clinical breast examination	31 (3.7%)	42 (3.1%)	41 (3.2%)
Mammography screening	113 (13.6%)	90 (6.7%)	81 (6.2%)
Ultrasound screening	38 (4.6%)	10 (0.7%)	18 (1.4%)
MRI screening	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Incidental surgery	2 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Unknown	70 (8.4%)	173 (13.0%)	134 (10.3%)
Others	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)

### **Major presenting symptoms in self-detected breast cancer**

Among the 2,607 patients who detected breast cancer themselves by chance, the vast majority (92.4%) presented with painless lumps; 4.7% had pain; 4.9% had nipple discharge and 0.8% found palpable axillary nodes as their major presenting symptoms (Figure 2.1.2).

**Figure 2.1.2 Major presenting symptoms of self-detected breast cancer (N=2,607)**



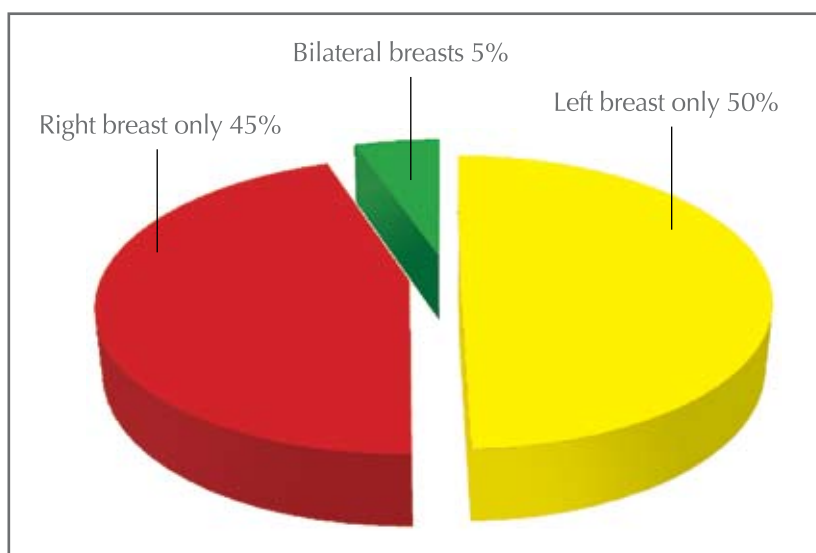
### ***Duration from onset of symptoms to first medical consultation***

Of the 2,607 patients who detected their cancers by chance, 45.1% sought their first medical consultation within 1-3 months of the onset of symptoms, 0.3% within 4-12 months and 0.1% after more than 12 months.

## **2.2 Characteristics of primary breast cancer**

In the patient cohort, 45% of breast cancer occurred in the right breast only, 50% occurred in the left breast only and 5% occurred in both breasts (Figure 2.2.1).

**Figure 2.2.1 Laterality of 3,467 breast cancer cases**



A tumour can be multifocal or multicentric, or it can occur in both forms. Regarding tumour locations in the breast, the majority were found in the upper outer quadrant of the right breast (50.5%) and of the left breast (45.2%), while fewer occurred in the lower inner quadrant of the right breast (7.7%) and in the central of the left breast (9.2%) (Figure 2.2.2).