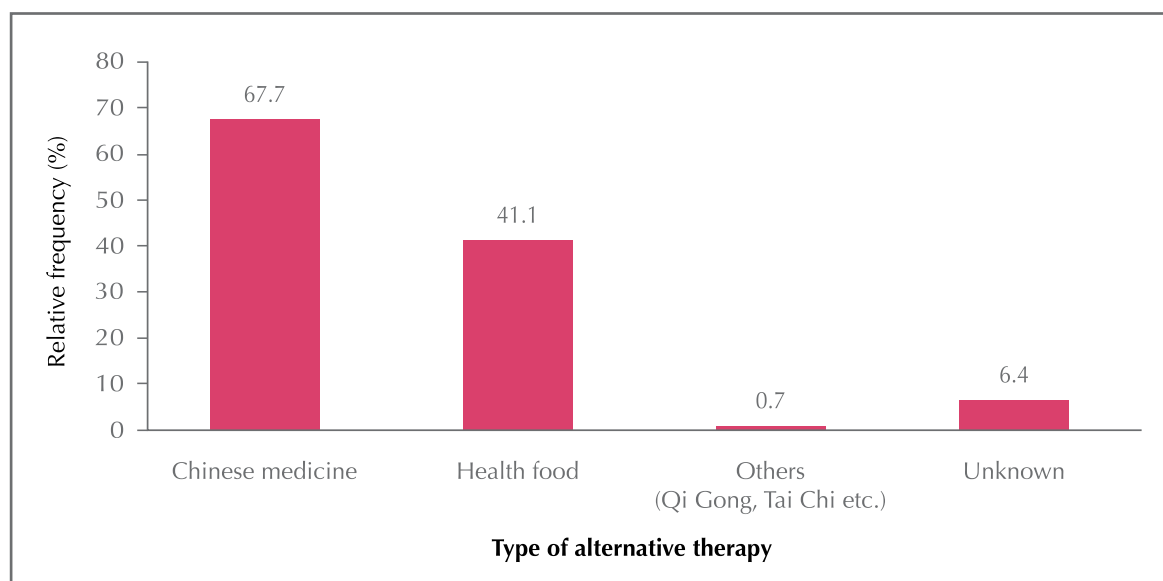




### ***Complementary and alternative therapies***

Of 3,467 breast cancer patients, 1,162 (33.5%) were treated with complementary and alternative therapies. Of these, 84.9% received adjuvant therapy. Major types of alternative therapies were Chinese medicine (67.7%) and health food (41.1%) (Figure 2.4.13).

**Figure 2.4.13 Types of alternative therapies used in 1,162 patients**



## **2.5 Patient status**

As of April 2011, a total of 3,375 surviving breast cancer patients had been observed for an average period of 3 years. Of 3,370 patients, 88 (2.6%) had locoregional recurrences with a mean time to locoregional recurrence of 4.6 years. The most common site was the breast (45.5% or 40 cases); 91 (2.7%) patients had distant recurrences with a mean time to distant recurrence of 4.2 years and the most common site was in patients' bones (48.4% or 44 cases) (Table 2.5.1).

Table 2.5.1 Follow-up of 3,375 subjects

	Number (%)
<b>Follow-up period (N=3,375)</b>	
< 1 year	299 (8.9)
1-2 years	1,342 (39.8)
2-5 years	1,137 (33.7)
5-10 years	445 (13.2)
10-15 years	101 (3.0)
>15 years	46 (1.4)
Unknown	5 (0.1)
Mean follow-up period	3.0 years
Median follow-up period	2.1 years
Range (years)	0.1 – 15.0 years
<b>Locoregional recurrence</b>	
No. of locoregional recurrences	88 (2.6)
Mean time to locoregional recurrence	4.6 years
Median time to locoregional recurrence	3.4 years
Range (years)	0.4 – 12.8 years
<b>Sites involved</b>	
Breast	40 (45.5)
Skin	3 (3.4)
Chest wall	23 (26.1)
Axilla	16 (18.2)
Supraclavicular	19 (21.6)
Internal mammary	6 (6.8)
Others	5 (5.7)
<b>Distant recurrence</b>	
No. of distant recurrences	91 (2.7)
Mean time to distant recurrence	4.2 years
Median time to distant recurrence	3.6 years
Range	0.2 – 13.5 years
<b>Distant organ involved</b>	
Mediastinal	9 (9.9)
Cervical lymph	2 (2.2)
Bone	44 (48.4)
Liver	18 (19.8)
Lung	32 (35.2)
Brain	12 (13.2)
Others	12 (13.2)
<b>Mortality</b>	
No. of deaths from breast cancer	7 (0.2)
No. of deaths from unrelated causes	3 (0.09)



Seven patients (0.2%) of the patient cohort died from breast cancer during the follow-up period; their mean survival time was 3 years from their initial diagnosis (Table 2.5.2).

**Table 2.5.2 Characteristics of breast cancer-specific deaths**

Case	Cancer stage	Age at diagnosis	Relative survival time (years)	Distant organs involved	Molecular subtype
1	I	34	8.9	Liver, lung, and uterus	ER+PR-HER2+
2	IIA	44	2.3	Lung	ER-PR-HER2+
3	IIIA	40	1.5	Bone and lung	ER+PR+HER2+
4	IIIA	46	3.2	Bone and brain	ER+PR-HER2+
5	IIIC	43	0.8	Bone and lung	ER+PR+HER2+
6	IIIC	36	1.6	Bone and lung	ER-PR-HER2-
7	IV	56	3.3	Bone and lung	ER+PR+HER2+