Conclusion: The met need for breast cancer surgery is minimal in Uganda. In several parts of the country breast surgery is not performed at all. A large proportion of the patients are young why investments towards research, prevention and treatment specifically targeting young women in the study setting is much needed.

This is a multi-center, retrospective study, investigating breast cancer surgery in the public health sector on a national level in Uganda, a low income country with over 39 million inhabitants. Data was collected for the years 2013 and 2014 from the National Referral Hospital, all 14 Regional Referral Hospitals and 14 General Hospitals. A total of 273 breast cancer surgeries were performed during the study years. The estimated met need for breast cancer surgery in Uganda within the public health sector was 7.1%.

Introduction
Non-communicable diseases including malignancies are becoming a major health concern in low- and middle income countries (LMIC). In 2012 there were 8.2 million cancer related deaths globally and 66% of these deaths occured in LMIC.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women world wide. Surgical treatment is an essential part of breast cancer care but access to surgery in general is very limited in LMIC.

Breast cancer patients in LMIC are younger than in high income countries and often present late with more advanced disease. In Uganda, the overall 5-year survival rate for breast cancer is only around 50%.

Method
In this study, the incidence of breast cancer was put in relation to the volume of breast cancer surgery performed to calculate the met need for surgery. This is the first nation-wide study where the unmet need for breast cancer surgery in Uganda is measured.

Results
• 273 patients were operated
• The estimated met need for breast cancer surgery within the public health sector was 7.1%
• The mean age was 48 years and almost a third of the patients were below 40 years old
• 6.2% of the patients were men
• Most of the surgeries were performed in the capital city (Kampala) at the National Referral Hospital
• Most operations were carried out by specialist surgeons (69%)

Future plans: This group will continue to focus on breast cancer in low income countries. We will specifically target young patients and investigate hereditary factors and cancer knowledge/awareness, with the aim to find breast cancer in earlier stages when cure is still possible.

Geographical distribution of study hospitals in Uganda and numbers of breast surgeries performed in 2013 and 2014 (n,n).