OBJECTIVE
The age standardized incidence rate (ASIR) of breast cancer amongst Asian countries is highest in Pakistan. The objective is to evaluate the diagnostic performance of FNAC in assessment of breast lumps for breast cancer and other lesions in under-resourced Sahiwal Division, Punjab, Pakistan.

METHODS
All 392 patients who underwent FNA (Fine needle aspiration) of breast lumps at DHQ Teaching Hospital, Sahiwal from January 2014 to December 2019 were included in this study.

RESULTS
The range of age of patient, size of lesion and duration of lump was 15–78 years [Mean: 39.44 years (43.8 years in C5)], 0.8-10 cms [Mean: 4.28 cm (5 cm in C5)], and 1 week-4 years [Mean: 6.11 months (7.55 months in C5)] respectively. 66 % patients were 31-50 years of age. Out of 392 breast lumps 40.05 % were Malignant (C5) – Mammary Carcinoma, 26.78 % were Benign (C2)- abscess, granuloma or benign cystic aspirate, 21.93 % were Atypical (C3)- proliferative breast disease mostly, 10.52 % were Suspicious for Malignancy (C4) and 2 cases were Insufficient (C1)- adipose tissue only. 58.3 %, 33.4 % and 8.3 % of the patients with mammary carcinoma presented with in upper outer quadrant, upper inner quadrant and central area of breast respectively.

CONCLUSION
FNAC serves as a simple, rapid, economical, less traumatic and a reliable tool for diagnosis of palpable breast lesions especially in resource-poor settings. It can prevent unnecessary surgery. Mammary Carcinoma (C5-Malignant) was the commonest (40.05% - 157 cases) lesion in this study.

REFERENCE