



BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

★ University Hospital - Florence - Florence, Italy

General Information



New breast cancer cases treated per year **370**

Breast multidisciplinary team members **19**

Radiologists, surgeons, pathologists, medical oncologists, radiotherapists and nurses

Clinical Director: **Lorenzo Orzalesi, MD**

In Florence two main institutions cooperate in the field of breast cancer: the Institute for Study and Cancer Prevention (ISPO) and the Breast Unit of Careggi University Hospital. The Breast Unit has been appointed as Reference Centre for Tuscany Region. The outpatient clinics assess new and advanced breast cancer, benign diseases, risk assessment and genetic counselling. The collaboration among specialists in different disciplines allows to offer a high standard treatment based on a multidisciplinary approach, which includes oncoplastic surgery, radiotherapy, pre-operative and adjuvant systemic treatment, treatment of locally advanced and metastatic breast cancer.

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Available services

- ✓ Radiology
- ✓ Breast Surgery
- ✓ Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery
- ✓ Pathology
- ✓ Medical Oncology
- ✓ Radiotherapy

- ✓ Nuclear Medicine
- ✓ Rehabilitation
- ✓ Genetic Counselling
- ✓ Data Management
- ✓ Psycho-oncology
- ✓ Breast Nurses

- ✓ Social Workers
- ✓ Nutritional Counselling
- ✓ Survivorship Groups
- ✓ Sexual Health Counselling
- ✓ Supportive and Palliative Care
- ✓ Integrative Medicine

Radiology

- ✓ **Dedicated Radiologists** 9
- ✓ **Mammograms per year** 25000
- ✓ **Breast radiographers**
- ✓ **Screening program**
- ✓ **Verification for non-palpable breast lesions on specimen**
- ✓ **Axillary US/US-guided FNAB**
- ✓ **Clinical Research**

Available imaging equipment

- ✓ Mammography
- ✓ Ultrasound
- ✓ Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- ✓ tomosintesi

Available work-up imaging equipment

- ✓ Computer Tomography
- ✓ Ultrasound
- ✓ Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- ✓ PET/CT scan

Primary technique for localizing non-palpable lesions

- Hook-wire (or needle localization)
- ✓ Charcoal marking/tattooing
- ROLL: radio-guided occult lesion localization

Available breast tissue sampling equipment

- ✓ Stereotactic Biopsy (Mammography guided)
 - ✓ Core Biopsy (Tru-cut)
 - ✓ Vacuum assisted biopsy
- ✓ Ultrasound-guided biopsy
 - ✓ Fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB, cytology)
 - ✓ Core Biopsy
 - ✓ Vacuum assisted biopsy
- ✓ MRI-guided biopsy
 - ✓ Core Biopsy
 - Vacuum assisted biopsy

Breast Surgery

- ✓ **New operated cases per year (benign and malignant)** 470
- ✓ **Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 4
- ✓ **Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 3
- ✓ **Breast Surgery beds** 15
- ✓ **Breast Nurse specialists** 1
- ✓ **Outpatient surgery**
- ✓ **Intra-operative evaluation of sentinel node**
- ✓ **Reconstruction performed by Breast Surgeons**
- ✓ **Clinical Research**

Primary technique for staging the axilla

- Axillary lymph node dissection
- ✓ Sentinel lymph node biopsy:
 - Blue dye technique
 - ✓ Radio-tracer technique
 - Blue dye + Radio-tracer
- Axillary sampling

Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery

Reconstructive/Plastic surgeons _____ 3

Immediate Reconstruction available _____

Type of breast reconstructive surgery available

- Remodelling after breast-conserving surgery
- Reconstruction after mastectomy:
 - Two-stage reconstruction (tissue expander followed by implant)
 - One-stage reconstruction
- Autogenous tissue flap
 - Latissimus dorsi flap
 - Transverse rectus abdominis (TRAM)
 - Free-flaps (free TRAM, DIEP, SIEA, gluteal, etc.)
- Surgery on the contralateral breast for symmetry

Pathology

Dedicated Breast Pathologists _____ 2

Available studies

- Cytology
- Haematoxylin & eosin section (H&E)
 - Surgical specimen
 - Sentinel node
 - Core biopsy
- Frozen section (FS)
 - Surgical specimen
 - Sentinel node
- Immunohistochemistry stain (IHC)
 - Estrogen receptors
 - Progesterone receptors
 - HER-2
 - Ki-67

Other special studies available

- Fluorescence in-situ Hybridization for HER-2 gene (FISH)
- Oncotype Dx (21-gene assay)
- MammaPrint (70-gene microarray)
- Prediction Analysis of Microarray 50-gene set (PAM 50)

Parameters included in the final pathology report

- Pathology stage (pT and pN)
- Tumour size (invasive component in mm)
- Histologic type
- Tumor grade
- ER/PR receptor status
- HER-2/neu receptor status
- Peritumoural/Lymphovascular invasion
- Margin status

Medical Oncology

Dedicated Breast Medical Oncologists _____ 3

Outpatient systemic therapy _____

Clinical Research _____

Radiotherapy

Dedicated Radiation Oncologists

Clinical Research

Available techniques after breast-conserving surgery (including experimental)

Whole-Breast RT (WBRT)

Partial breast irradiation (PBI):

External beam PBI

Interstitial brachytherapy

Targeted brachytherapy (MammoSite, SAVI applicator, other devices)

Intra-operative RT (IORT)

Multidisciplinary Meeting (MDM) / Tumour Board (TB)

Regular MDM/TB for case management discussion

Twice a week

Weekly

Every two weeks

Other Schedule

Cases discussed at MDM/TB

Preoperative cases

Postoperative cases

Specialties/services participating in MDM/TB

Radiology

Breast Surgery

Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery

Pathology

Medical Oncology

Radiotherapy

Genetic Counselling

Breast Nurse Service

Psycho-oncology

Genetic Counselling, when required

Further Services and Facilities

Nuclear Medicine

Lymphoscintigraphy

Bone scan

Positron Emission Tomography (PET)

PET/CT scan

Rehabilitation

Prosthesis service

Physiotherapy

Lymph-oedema treatment

Genetic Counselling

Specialist Providing Genetic Counselling/Risk assessment service:

Dedicated Clinical Geneticist

Medical Oncologist

Breast Surgeon

General Surgeon

Gynaecologist

Genetic Testing available

Surveillance program for high-risk women

Data Management

Database used for clinical information

Data manager available

Contact details

Clinical Director

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Radiotherapy

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By bus or sub-way/underground:

Careggi hospital is located in the Northern area of Florence easily accessible by bus (number 8, 14, 20) and it is close to Florence airport.

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