



# BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

## ★ Brustzentrum Bern - Bern, Switzerland

### General Information



**New breast cancer cases treated per year** 313

**Breast multidisciplinary team members** 23

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

**Clinical Director:** Gilles Berclaz, MD

The Breast Centre Bern, part of the Lindenhof group, is one of the biggest in Switzerland, with around 350 breast cancer operations per year. Under the direction of PD Dr. med Gilles Berclaz, a team of experienced specialists has come together to offer patients with breast disease personal and competent care in one location, right through diagnosis and therapy to continuing aftercare. The Radiology team uses the most modern equipment for diagnostic imaging, such as tomosynthesis (DBT) or MRI, with functionality for the removal of tissue for further examination. During the weekly interdisciplinary tumour conference, the treatment programme recommended for each patient is drawn up in consultation with the team of participating specialists at the Breast Centre Bern. Medical oncology therapies, both before or after the operation, are managed under the supervision of experienced oncologists at the hospital. Nursing and physiotherapy provision at the centre is based on the latest criteria. Each patient can receive support from the breast care nurse, and, also, a female onco-psychologist is available.

### **Brustzentrum Bern**

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CERTIFICATION(S) ACCREDITATION(S)

Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft

Expiration date: 17 May 2024



Certification document (original lang.)

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** 6
- Mammograms per year** 7500
- 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)
- Tomosynthesis

**Available work-up imaging equipment**

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

**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)** 343
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 4
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 4
- Breast Surgery beds** 10
- Breast Nurse specialists** 3
- 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** 2
- ✓ **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** 5

**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)
- ✓ EndoPredict

**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** 4
- ✓ **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

## Further Services and Facilities

**Nuclear Medicine**

Lymphoscintigraphy

Bone scan

Positron Emission Tomography (PET)

PET/CT scan

SPECT-CT

**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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## Reconstructive Surgery

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## Pathology

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## Medical Oncology

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## Radiotherapy

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How to reach us



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**From airport:**

Bern-Belpmoos airport is just a 20-minute drive away from our Centre. Travel time from the international airports of Zurich, Basel and Geneva is about 1.5 to 2 hours.

**By train:**

Train to Bern Hauptbahnhof (Bern Main Station). Take bus No. 11 (direction: Neufeld) and get off at 'Engeried'. Follow the signs to 'Engeriedspital' to the street 'Riedweg'.

**By bus or sub-way/underground:**

Bus No. 11 (direction: Neufeld) and get off at 'Engeried'. Follow the signs to 'Engeriedspital' to the street 'Riedweg'.

**By car:**

From Zürich/Basel/Biel und Murten/Neuchâtel: Highway A1, exit Bern-Neufeld; from Fribourg: Highway A12, exit Bern-Neufeld; from Thun/Interlaken: Highway A6, exit Bern-Neufeld. Follow the signs to 'Engeriedspital'.

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