



BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

★ Chirec - Brussels, Belgium

General Information



New breast cancer cases treated per year 430

Breast multidisciplinary team members 36

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

Clinical Director: Jean-Frédéric Limbosch, MD

Our Breast Unit is located in the city of Brussels, at Chirec Hospital. A high qualified team of surgeons and supportive care providers, gynaecologists, medical and radiation oncologists and reconstructive surgeons provides multidisciplinary care to breast cancer patients. More than 400 cases of new breast cancer are treated per year, and more than 30.000 mammographies are performed. 7 breast surgeons are in the unit and perform more than 500 breast surgeries per year. 250 patients with breast cancer are yearly treated in radiotherapy. Our breast unit is certified by the Health Ministry of Belgium. Our team has signed the 'Quality Chart' written by Chirec Cancer Institute, to provide the most appropriate and high-quality treatment for each patient, with a coordinated organization and humanized care based on individual's need. High-performance technical equipment is available, from diagnosis to treatment: digital mammography, NMR, molecular diagnosis, the last model 'Artist' in radiotherapy and a state-of-the-art PET-CT with time-of-flight imaging technology. Our supportive care team includes coordinating and continuing care nurses, psychologists, kinesiologists and nutritionists.

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CERTIFICATION(S) ACCREDITATION(S)

COCOM

Expiration date: 31 December 2023

Commission Communautaire Commune

This Centre has notified to be certified and, as such, been requested to upload the certification document for further information. When the certification document/s is/are provided, it is/they are made available hereafter.

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** 14
- Mammograms per year** 33000
- 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)
- Angio-mammography - Elastography

Available work-up imaging equipment

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

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)** 590
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 6
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 3
- Breast Surgery beds** 17
- Breast Nurse specialists** 4
- 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** _____ 5
- ✓ **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** _____ 3

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** _____ 8
- ✓ **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

Rehabilitation

Prosthesis service

Physiotherapy

Lymph-oedema treatment

Specific Revalidation

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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How to reach us



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From airport:

Nearest airport: Zaventem Airport - Brussels

By train:

Nearest station: Etterbeek station.

By bus or sub-way/underground:

Métro - DELTA stop. Bus 71 - DELTA stop.

By car:

Parking available

Last modified: 07 January 2022