



BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

★ Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc / Institut Roi Albert II - Brussels, Belgium

General Information



New breast cancer cases treated per year **310**

Breast multidisciplinary team members **21**

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

Clinical Director: **Martine Berlière, MD, PhD**

Our breast unit was established in October '98 and has been working in a multidisciplinary setting since then. Our team is comprised of breast surgeons, medical oncologists, radiotherapists, pathologists, plastic surgeons, geneticists, breast nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists, research coordinators, social workers, etc. We treat over 350 breast cancer patients every year, a steep increase from the initial 150 new breast cancer cases treated in 1998. Despite this high volume of patients, our aim is always to keep the patients at the centre of our attention and provide them with the best possible quality care. The clinical outcomes of our patients are ranked among the best in the country, and we continuously try to improve the level of care by taking part in numerous scientific studies. We understand that having a diagnosis of breast cancer is very hard on patients and systematically offer them psychological support and exercise medicine therapy. We have a wellness centre which is open to all our patients. Finally, hypnosis is proposed for the different breast cancer treatment modalities, e.g. hypnosis sedation for surgery and hypnorelaxation for surgery and chemotherapy.

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CERTIFICATION(S) ACCREDITATION(S)

BCCERT - Breast Centres Certification

Expiration date: 29 October 2024



Certification document (original lang.)

Certification document (eng 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** 3
- Mammograms per year** 10000
- 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)

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)** 355
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 2
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 2
- Breast Surgery beds** 15
- Breast Nurse specialists** 8
- 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** 5
- 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

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:

From Brussels National airport at Zaventem, by car, follow 'H - UCL - St-Luc' (6 km). There are 2 direct 'De Lijn' buses between the airport and Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, journey time twenty minutes: bus 659, stop 'Hippocrate', 5 minutes' walk from Cliniques, or bus 359, stop 'Thiry Woluwé', 10 minutes' walk from Cliniques.

By train:

From Brussels-Central and Brussels-Shuman stations: take Metro 1, heading to Stockel, exit at 'Alma'. From Brussels-Midi station: take Metro 2 then Metro 1 (change at 'Arts-Loi').

By bus or sub-way/underground:

Metro Line 1 – 'Alma' Station Bus (STIB) Route 42 - 'UCL- Saint-Luc' stop or Route 79 - 'Cliniques-UCL' stop. Crainhem metro station (Metro line 1), located approximately 15 minutes' walk from Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, is served by several different STIB (76 - 77 - 79), TEC (Conforto Bis) and De Lijn (315 - 316 - 317 - 352) bus routes.

By car:

Highway E 40 (Brussels-Liège), Exit 20 'Kraainem' and follow signs for 'UCL - St-Luc' or Ring Road, Exit 2 'Wezembeek-Oppem' and follow signs for 'UCL – St Luc'. Coming from the center of Brussels, follow 'Boulevard de la Woluwe' then 'Avenue Hippocrate', and follow the signs for 'Hôpital UCL-St Luc' or take Exit 20 'Kraainem' from the E40. From Brussels National airport at Zaventem, follow 'H - UCL - St-Luc' (6 km).

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