



BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

★ Groote Schuur Academic Hospital, Department of Surgery, J46-69 Old Main Building - Cape Town, South Africa

General Information



New breast cancer cases treated per year **550**

Breast multidisciplinary team members **7**

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

Clinical Director: Francois Malherbe, FRCS, MBChB

The Groote Schuur Hospital Breast Unit is grouped around the teaching unit of the University of Cape Town. The team consists of 2 consultant breast surgeons, 1 plastic surgeon, 1 oncologist, 1 radiologist and a pathologist. We service the Western Metro of Cape Town and the surrounding rural area, with an estimated population of 2,5 Million people. We run open access, and one-stop Breast Clinic once a week on a Friday where patients undergo a triple assessment with same-day cytology results. On average, 150 patients are seen in this clinic each week. Once diagnosed, our current waiting time for surgery is four to six weeks. Currently, about 90% of our breast cancer patients will be operable at presentation with most cancers being stage 2 and 3. Wherever feasible, we offer breast-conserving and reconstructive surgery. We run one combined meeting per week.

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Web-site: <http://www.gshbreastendocrine.co.za>

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** 1
- Mammograms per year** 6000
- 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)** 450
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 2
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 2
- Breast Surgery beds** 16
- 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
- Sentimag
- Axillary sampling

Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery

- Reconstructive/Plastic surgeons** _____ 1
- 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** _____ 1

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** _____ 1
- 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

Francois Malherbe, FRCS, MBChB	Clinical Director	gshsurgonc@gmail.com	+2721 4043036
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Radiology

Rufkah Gamielien, FRCR, MBChB	Consultant Radiologist		
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Breast Surgery

Lydia Cairncross	Consultant Surgeon	gshsurgonc@gmail.com	+2721 4066475
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Francois Malherbe	Consultant Surgeon	francois.malherbe@uct.ac.za	+2721 4043036
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Reconstructive Surgery

Donald Hudson	Consultant Plastic Surgeon	donald.hudson@uct.ac.za	+2721 4043426
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Pathology

Dharshnee Chetty	Consultant Pathologist		+2721 4043463
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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:

Take Airport Approach Rd to Settlers Way/N2 in Kanana, Follow Settlers Way/N2 to Main Rd/M4 in Mowbray. Take exit 7 from Settlers Way/N2, Continue on Main Rd/M4 to your destination in Observatory, Groote Schuur Hospital Groot Schuur Drive, 7925

By train:

n/a

By bus or sub-way/underground:

n/a

By car:

n/a

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