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 multidisciplinarity team members 7
Radiologists, surgeons, pathologists, medical oncologists, radiotherapists and nurses

Clinical Director: Lydia Cairncross, 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 an open access, one stop Breast Clinic once a week on a Friday where patients undergo 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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Available services

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
- Axillary sampling
Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery

- Reconstructive/Plastic surgeons
- 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

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
- 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
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<tr>
<th>Contact details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Director</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Radiology</strong></td>
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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

Last modified: 24 October 2016