



# BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

## Helen Joseph Breast Care Clinic - Johannesburg, South Africa

### General Information



**New breast cancer cases treated per year** 360

**Breast multidisciplinary team members** 12

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

**Clinical Director:** Carol Ann Benn, MBBCh

The vision of the Helen Joseph Breast Care Clinic is to provide world-class breast care to the women of Johannesburg and South Africa, delivered in a provincial (government) hospital setting. Patient care should be excellent but affordable, and allow women (and men) access to all the available methods of breast pathology diagnosis and treatment through an integrated, education orientated, multidisciplinary approach; ensuring high quality patient care and effective service delivery. The Centre also works with local cancer charities and other organisations to raise awareness of the importance of breast health for individuals through media and government initiatives. We also provide education and training to healthcare professionals within the hospitals of Johannesburg, throughout Gauteng province, and throughout Africa.

### Helen Joseph Breast Care Clinic

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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** 2
- 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)** 650
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 2
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 2
- Breast Surgery beds** 15
- 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** 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** 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** 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

### 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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**Radiology**

Priya Govender, MBBCh	Lead Radiologist in Mammography		+2711 489 0052
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**Breast Surgery**

Douglas Ross, MBChB	Specialist Surgeon		+2711 489 0100
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Carol Ann Benn, MBChB	Specialist Surgeon		+2711 489 0100
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**Reconstructive Surgery**

Adelaide Rooi, MBChB	Specialist Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon		+2711 489 0100
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**Pathology**

Dawn Van der Byl, MBChB	Pathologist		+2711 489 8469
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**Medical Oncology**

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**Radiotherapy**

Yastira Ramdas, MBBCh	Radiation Oncologist		+2711 488 3446
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How to reach us



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**From airport:**

From OR Tambo International Airport take the R24 then N1 south. Turn off at M2 then follow offramp for M1. Take the Empire off ramp and this road becomes Perth Road after four major intersections. Helen Joseph Hospital is on the left and the clinic is in front of the hospital.

**By train:**

From Park station travel west through Braamfontein to the Jan Smuts/Empire intersection.

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