



BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

★ Onze Lieve Vrouweziekenhuis - Aalst, Belgium

General Information



New breast cancer cases treated per year 306

Breast multidisciplinary team members 16

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

Clinical Director: Adelheid Roelstraete, PhD

Since 2002, the Breast Unit of the Onze-Lieve-Vrouw hospital acts as a multidisciplinary structure to provide optimal management for patients with benign or malignant breast disease. From screening, diagnostics, local treatment, systemic treatment to follow-up. Special attention is given to psychosocial support and rehabilitation during and after treatment. Quality control through benchmarking and participation in clinical trials are also important cornerstones of the breast unit.

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CERTIFICATION(S) ACCREDITATION(S)

BCCERT - Breast Centres Certification

Expiration date: 10 June 2024



Certification document (original 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** 6
- Mammograms per year** 12817
- 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)
- MRI Biopsy

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)** 324
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 3
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 3
- Breast Surgery beds** 6
- Breast Nurse specialists** 2
- 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)
- SISH HER-2 gene in-situ Hybridization (Dual ISH)

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** 2
- 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

Data Management

Further Services and Facilities

Nuclear Medicine

Lymphoscintigraphy

Bone scan

Positron Emission Tomography (PET)

PET/CT scan

Rehabilitation

Prosthesis service

Physiotherapy

Lymph-oedema treatment

Oncorevalidation and Advocacy Group

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

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Radiology

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From airport:

Aalst is situated in the center of Belgium, along the E40 motorway between Brussels and Ghent.

By train:

• Aalst railway station is easily accessible from Ghent, Brussels and Antwerp; • Aalst railway station is within 1300 meters from OLV Hospital, but you can take public busses from here to the front door of OLV Hospital: lines 4, 41, 42 or 43.

By car:

When driving from Brussels: • Take E40 motorway, direction Ghent • On the E40 motorway, take the exit N.19 ("Aalst Centrum") • Continue until the roundabout, then turn right at the second exit to continue to the direction Asse-Opwijk (motorway N9). Signage to OLV Hospital is available from this point. • Continue along the road. Cross the first traffic light and go straight on. Then cross the bridge over the river Dender. • Once having crossed the bridge, turn left at the next traffic light and continue in the direction of Opwijk. • Drive to the traffic light, just past the church, then turn right, thus entering the Moorselbaan. • The entrance to the parking is only 200 meters down the road, at your left side (and 100 meters past the pedestrian's access of the OLV

Hospital). When driving from Ghent: • Take the E40 motorway, direction Brussels • On the E40 motorway, take the exit N. 19 (“Aalst Centrum”) • Continue until the roundabout, then turn right at the second exit and proceed in the direction Asse-Opwijk (motorway N9). Signage to the OLV Hospital is available from this point. • Continue along the road. Cross the first traffic light and go straight. Cross the bridge over the river Dender. • Once having crossed the bridge, turn left at the next traffic light and continue in the direction of Opwijk. • Drive to the traffic light, just past the church, then turn right, thus entering the Moorselbaan.

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