



BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

★ The Institute of Oncology Ljubljana - Ljubljana, Slovenia

General Information



New breast cancer cases treated per year 750

Breast multidisciplinary team members 33

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

Clinical Director: **Simona Borstnar, MD, PhD**

The Institute of Oncology was founded in 1938, and at that time, it was one of the few comprehensive cancer centres in the world. It gradually grew and developed into a major cancer centre in Slovenia, maintaining its role of a functional comprehensive cancer centre. The professional work is based on a high-quality multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and treatment. The Institute is the central institution that partially performs, and at a national level, directs the programs of comprehensive cancer care in the fields of prevention, early detection, treatment and rehabilitation.

The Institute of Oncology Ljubljana

Zaloska Cesta, 2
SI-1000 Ljubljana,
Phone: +38615879110
Fax: +38615879400
E-mail: info@onko-i.si
Web-site: www.onko-i.si

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** 12000
- 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)** 840
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 9
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 5
- Breast Surgery beds** 10
- 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** 7
- 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** 8

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** 8
- 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)

deep inspiration breath-hold technique

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

We have three different MDMs

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

Simona Borstnar, MD, PhD	Chair of the Breast Tumor Board	sborstnar@onko-i.si	+38615879616
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Radiology

Maja Music, MD, PhD	Head of Radiology Department	mmusic@onko-i.si	+38615879696
Kristijana Hertl, MD, MSc	Staff Member of Radiology Department	khertl@onko-i.si	+38615879942
Maksimilijan Kadivec, MD	Head Of The Screening Program	mkadivec@onko-i.si	+38615879936
Romana Erzen Jaksic, MD	Staff Member of Radiology Department	rjaksic@onko-i.si	+38615879939
Miha Cavlek, MD	Staff Member of Radiology Department	mcavlek@onko-i.si	+38615879937
Simona Jereb, MD	Staff Member of Radiology Department	sjereb@onko-i.si	+38615879872

Breast Surgery

Marko Hocevar, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Surgery Dpt.	mhocevar@onko-i.si	+38615879530
Nikola Besic, MD, PhD	Head Division of Surgery	nbesic@onko-i.si	+38615879994
Janez Zgajnar, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Surgery Dpt.	jzgajnar@onko-i.si	+38615879535
Marko Snoj, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Surgery Dpt.	msnoj@onko-i.si	+38615879796
Andraz Perhavec, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Surgery Dpt.	aperhavec@onko-i.si	+38615879951
Barbara Peric, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Surgery Dpt.	bperic@onko-i.si	+38615879951
Gasper Pilko, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Surgery Dpt.	gpilko@onko-i.si	+38615879951
Rok Petric, MD	Staff Member of Surgery Dpt.	rpetric@onko-i.si	+38615879948
Nebojsa Glumac, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Surgery Dpt.	nglumac@onko-i.si	+38615879948

Reconstructive Surgery

Uros Ahcan	Head of Reconstructive Surgery Dpt.	uros.ahcan@kclj.si	
Kresimir Bozиков	Staff Surgeon		
Pogorelec Darijo	Staff Surgeon		
Rogelj Klemen	Staff surgeon		
Zorman Peter	Staff surgeon		
Arnez Tine	Staff surgeon		
Zivec Katarina	Staff surgeon		

Pathology

Gorana Gasljevic, MD	Staff Member of Pathology Dpt.	ggasljevic@onko-i.si	+38615879720
Barbara Gazic, MD, PhD	Head od Pathology Dpt.	bgazic@onko-i.si	+38615879718
Andreja Klevisar, MD	Staff Member of Pathology Dpt.	aklevisar@onko-i.si	+38615879723
Jerca Blazina, MD	Staff Member of Pathology Dpt.	jblazina@onko-i.si	+38615879721
Olga Blatnik, MD	Staff Member of Pathology Dpt.	oblatnik@onko-i.si	+38615879722
Snezana Pavlovic Đokic, MD	Staff Member of Pathology Dpt.	spavlovic@onko-i.si	+38615879723
Mojca Gjidera, MD	Staff Member of Pathology Dpt.	mgjidera@onko-i.si	+38615879717

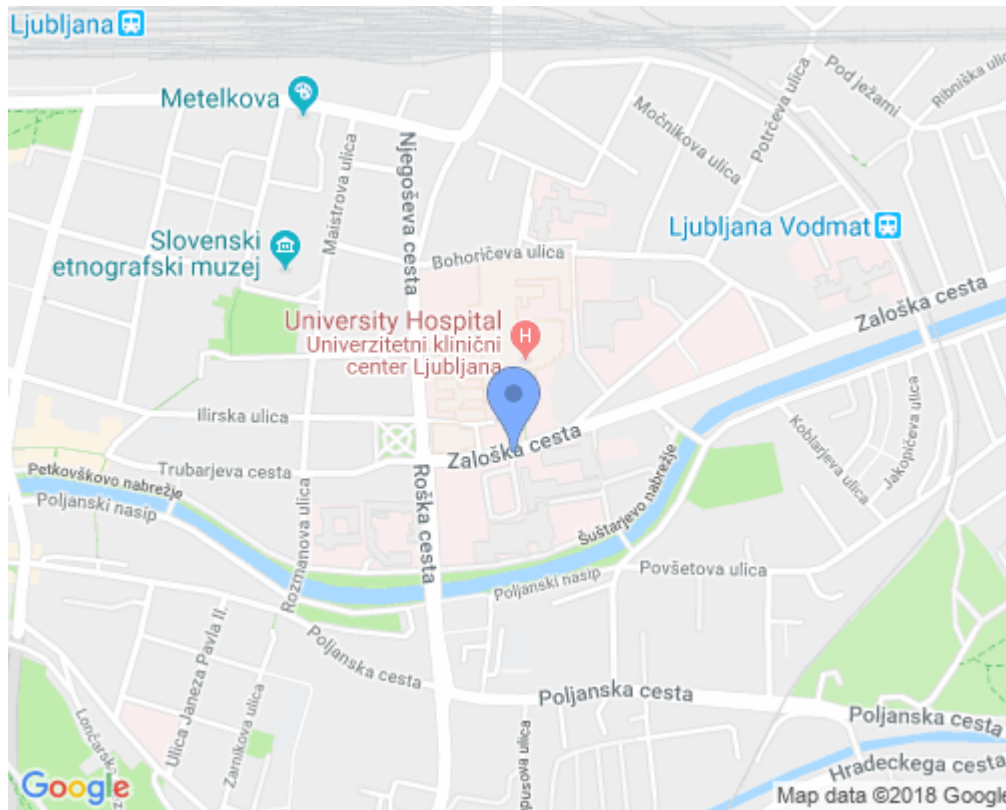
Medical Oncology

Simona Borstnar, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Medical Oncology Dpt., Head of Breast Medical Oncology Team	sborstnar@onko-i.si	+38615879616
Erika Matos, MD, MSc	Staff Member of Medical Oncology Dpt.	ematos@onko-i.si	+38615879971
Cvetka Grasic Kuhar, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Medical Oncology Dpt.	cgrasic@onko-i.si	+38615879283
Bostjan Seruga, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Medical Oncology Dpt.	bseruga@onko-i.si	+38615879488
Marina Mencinger, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Medical Oncology Dpt.	mmencinger@onko-i.si	+38615879286
Natasa Snoj Sarvari, MD	Staff Member of Medical Oncology Dpt.	nsnoj@onko-i.si	+38615879972
Tanja Ovcaricek, MD	Staff Member of Medical Oncology Dpt.	tovcaricek@onko-i.si	+38615879972
Domen Ribnikar, MD	Staff Member of Medical Oncology Dpt.	dribnikar@onko-i.si	+38615879977

Radiotherapy

Snezka Pavlin, MD, MSc	Staff Member of Radiotherapy Dpt.	skosir@onko-i.si	+38615879501
Tanja Marinko, MD, PhD	Staff Member of Radiotherapy Dpt, Head of Breast Radiation Team	tmarinko@onko-i.si	+38615879505
Andreja Gojkovic-Horvat, MD	Staff Member of Radiotherapy Dpt.	agojkovic@onko-i.si	+38615879506
Jasenska Gugic, MD	Staff Member of Radiotherapy Dpt.	jgugic@onko-i.si	+38615879292
Ivica Ratosa, MD	Staff Member of Radiotherapy Dpt.	iratosa@onko-i.si	+38615879502
Danijela Golo, MD	Staff Member of Radiotherapy Dpt.	dgolo@onko-i.si	+38615879292

How to reach us



The Institute of Oncology Ljubljana

Zaloska Cesta, 2
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From airport:

Brnik Airport is located 25 km North from the city centre.

By train:

Ljubljana is accessible by train.

By car:

Ljubljana is accessible by car (Milan 500 km, Munich 450 km, Vienna 370 km, Budapest 500 km). The Institute of Oncology is situated only few minutes walk (approximately 15 minutes) from the city centre.

Last modified: 17 May 2016