The Institute of Oncology Ljubljana - Ljubljana, Slovenia

General Information

New breast cancer cases treated per year | 750
Breast multidisciplinarity 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.

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Available services

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

The Institute of Oncology Ljubljana
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)
☐ 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

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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