The combined team is grouped around a surgical teaching unit of Wits University that comprises 3 consultants and 2 registrars, 3 medical officers and 4 Interns. We service Southern Johannesburg, Soweto and surrounding areas, with an estimated population of 3 millions. We deal with a socially disadvantaged population with difficult access to health care. Further challenges are poverty, ignorance, stigma, transport problems and a poor primary health referral system. We attempt to help by implementing an open door policy to our clinic, providing health education at every opportunity for patients and primary health care providers and cooperating with NGOs. Our out-patient clinic runs weekly and sees an average of 180 patients. Once diagnosed our current waiting time for surgery is one week. Wherever feasible and preferred we offer breast conserving and reconstructive surgery. We run two combined meetings per week with allied specialists based at our institution and at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital where our patients receive their adjuvant Chemo- and Radiotherapy. We are involved in several research projects with local and international research partners.

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**Available services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radiology</th>
<th>Nuclear Medicine</th>
<th>Social Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breast Surgery</td>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Nutritional Counselling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>Genetic Counselling</td>
<td>Survivorship Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>Data Management</td>
<td>Sexual Health Counselling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Oncology</td>
<td>Psycho-oncology</td>
<td>Supportive and Palliative Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiotherapy</td>
<td>Breast Nurses</td>
<td>Integrative Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Radiology**

- **Dedicated Radiologists**: 3
- **Mammograms per year**: 4009
- **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
- Bone 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)**: 584
- **Dedicated Breast Surgeons**: 4
- **Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year**: 4
- **Breast Surgery beds**: 15
- **Breast Nurse specialists**: 4
- **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
  - Division of Human Genetics NHLS
- Genetic Testing available
- Surveillance program for high-risk women

### Data Management

- Database used for clinical information
- Data manager available
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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How to reach us

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From airport:
Private transportation and taxi.
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By train:
n/a

By bus or sub-way/underground:
n/a

Last modified: 23 September 2016