

Oncoplastic Breast Surgery

The Shape of Service Provision

Joint Statement from the Association of Breast Surgeons and the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

Breast Centres require surgeons from both General Surgery and Plastic Surgery training backgrounds who can manage the oncological and reconstructive workload of breast cancer surgery. They will need to work in a collegiate manner through their local multidisciplinary team. Individual centres are likely to configure services to suit local conditions and needs.

It is anticipated that some surgeons will focus more on the oncological components and others on reconstructive but all will have a deep understanding of both domains so that patients will have access to all appropriate procedures. This requires an approved training structure that supports appointments of appropriately trained surgeons to such Centres.

Joint Guidelines on Best Practice in Oncoplastic Breast Reconstruction from the Association of Breast Surgery (ABS) and the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS) were published in 2012 with differentiation between Centres and Units being defined (1) These guidelines were prepared by a multidisciplinary group and describe many of the constitutive elements of a modern oncoplastic breast service. They are complimented by Surgical Guidelines for the Management of Breast Cancer (2) and NICE Guidance (3).

The configuration and staffing of Breast Centres should allow appropriately trained surgeons from both disciplines to provide a timely and accurate diagnostic and therapeutic service for all patients with breast disease. The surgeons will also play a role in the assessment and management of patients at moderate to high risk of developing breast cancer as well as, patients with benign breast disease and those with developmental abnormalities.

Such an integrated interspeciality approach by the multiprofessional breast team is pivotal to ensure best patient care.

Refs

1. Oncoplastic Breast Reconstruction: Guidelines for Best Practice. ISBN 978-0-9567937-2-0
2. Association of Breast Surgery at BASO. Surgical guidelines for the management of breast cancer. Eur J Surg Oncol 2009; S1-S22
3. NICE Guidelines: CG80. Early and locally advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment 2009.