



CLINICAL SHEET Breast Centre

Department

Surgery and Oncology

Specific treatment service provided

The Breast Centre (BC) is a functional unit of more than 20 departments involved in breast cancer care. The members follow every woman who receives breast cancer diagnosis within the Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Integrata of Verona and offer them an optimal treatment, complying with the International Breast Cancer Guidelines.

The clinical staff of the BC offers expertise in a wide range of surgical and clinical fields, including:

Breast radiology
Breast pathology
Breast surgery
Medical oncology
Radiation oncology
Reconstructive surgery
Physiotherapy
Nuclear medicine
Bone Health support
Nutrition support
Psychological support

Each of these department provides at least one clinic per week. Through a coordinated work, the units ensure the overall care of cancer through diagnosis, treatment, and post treatment support (including follow up).

The Breast Centre offers:

- clinical examination
- all the necessary imaging equipment for complete and adequate breast diagnosis: mammography, ultrasound of the breast and axilla, core biopsy-free hand (US guided and x-ray guided), breast MRI, MRI guided biopsy
- all the necessary equipment for complete and adequate breast surgery, including: IORT and sentinel lymph node biopsy procedures and reconstructive and re-shaping techniques
- a pathology laboratory with: microscopes, cryocut, histoprocessor, microtome, staining machines, immunostainers, FISH
- medical treatment: adjuvant and neo-adjuvant treatments, chemotherapy, hormonotherapy, target therapy, radiotherapy, clinical trials
- physiotherapy for the postoperative recovery period to ensure good shoulder mobility
- clinical psychologist (psycho-oncologist) with special experience of breast cancer patients



Brief description of the diseases treated:

The Breast Centre provides care for primary and advanced breast cancer (all ages and stages)

Therapeutic approach

The Centre brings together members of different Medical Units and other healthcare staff in order to improve services, care and treatment of breast cancer.

The BC members are involved at different levels in care and treatment of cancer. The Centre adopts a multi-disciplinary approach to breast cancer in order to offer a personalized and tailored care.

The Breast Centre holds multidisciplinary case management meetings, and has established written clinical protocols, specifically adapted to local need from international and national guidelines (European Guidelines). All protocols are formally reviewed on annual basis.

The objectives of the BC are:

1. Quality control (data analysis is performed by the Breast Cancer Registry "RTO" and results are shown and discussed within group meetings);
2. Organization (setting and planning of the course of action from diagnosis through all the phases of treatment in accordance with guidelines and protocols; organization and planning of the multidisciplinary meetings);
3. Research (the availability of RTO is the basis for research protocols and interdisciplinary collaborative papers published in international journals);
4. Development of Guidelines through periodic updates and revisions in accordance with scientific literature;
5. Knowledge awareness and dissemination (through the official web site, leaflets, etc.);
6. Teaching and training (periodical CME meetings);
7. Collaboration with Family Doctors and health professionals.

Annual cases

About 500 newly diagnosed cases of primary breast cancer (all ages and stages) each year.

Length of treatment and follow up

Length of treatment and follow up times may vary according to the stage of cancer.