

Feedback Report on Oncoplastic Breast Surgery Fellowship Training Programme

As a female surgeon with a special interest in academic and clinical activities related to breast diseases, my breast surgery fellowship training at the dedicated institutes of the "Interdisciplinary Breast Center - Sana Krankenhaus Gerresheim" and "Department of Senology and Breast Surgery - Breast Center; Marien Hospital" (1/10/2009 - 31/03/2010; Dusseldorf, Germany) was of a great experience to improve and acquire the necessary knowledge and skills that are required for breast surgeon, who should observe modern and up-to date practice in this rapidly evolving subspecialty, and which is consider to be an uttermost need for patients with breast cancer in my country the United Arab Emirates.

The patterns of care and training possibilities in this oncoplastic breast surgery fellowship, that run in a friendly supportive training atmosphere and with a respective considerate to the fellow's social and cultural background, makes the technical aspects of breast surgery more interesting.

In this training opportunity, the concept of "modern breast-surgery practice" that requires the integration of oncological, plastic and reconstructive surgical techniques to reduce patients' physical disfigurement and restore their body image and self-confidence to improve their quality of life and achieve satisfaction was observed and highly appreciated. In these tertiary care facilities with high-volume load and different case scenarios, the coordinated collaborative multidisciplinary team work, based on individual women and shared decision, offers the best individual choices to maximize local control and minimize poor cosmetic results with the least patient's discomfort.

Combined with appropriate knowledge and understanding of principles and evidence-based practice and guidelines, the meticulous attention encompasses the entire journey process for the management of both benign and malignant disorders (including patients with early breast cancer / locally advanced breast tumours), and to guide patients from diagnosis to the end of treatment and follow-up.

The technical challenges associated with the breast oncoplastic- reconstructive surgical procedures include a careful preoperative work-up and marking, appropriate surgery to extirpate cancer, and breast reconstruction using a full range of available techniques and correction of asymmetry relative to the contralateral breast.

Some of the new learned concepts include the "non-cutting oncoplastic" that based on the diagnosis and involve translating the imaging results into oncoplastic approach; such as imaging cartography with ultrasound / _+ magnetic resonance tomography, needle framing of breast lesion and its extent with ultrasound / _+ magnetic resonance imaging guided needle/wire localization.

A comprehensive range of oncoplastic breast and lymph nodes surgical techniques were attended and assisted on, including well-designed conserving and partial resections to mastectomy and reconstruction such as; cosmetic quadrantectomy, with volumetric and contour deformity correction using local flap matrix rotation reconstruction, skin sparing mastectomy (such as with tennis racket incision), with immediate prosthetic implant-based reconstruction or autologous reconstruction (as with latissimus dorsi myocutaneous flap, transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous flap, thoraco-epigastric flap techniques) and smile mastectomy, as well as, contra-lateral breast surgery to achieve symmetry (such as reduction/ mastopexy), in addition to, therapeutic breast reduction and augmentation mammoplasties. Other adapted technique is the pre-therapeutic sentinel node biopsy.

In conclusion, this comprehensive training opportunity was of a significant impact in achieving the necessary knowledge and skills of a modern breast-oncoplastic surgery.

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