



# BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

## ★ CHC - Centre Hospitalier Chrétien - Liège, Belgium

### General Information



**New breast cancer cases treated per year** 430

**Breast multidisciplinary team members** 24

Radiologists, surgeons, pathologists, medical oncologists, radiotherapists and nurses

**Clinical Director:** Joseph Weerts, FRCS, MD

The unit offers an integrated multidisciplinary approach including all steps from screening to diagnosis of breast cancer with detailed risk assessment to long-term follow-up.

Continuous care is also provided to all patients and family thus accompanied until eventual death.

All patients are invited to follow a 'breast cancer itinerary' at the time of diagnosis or relapse as well as during their multi-modal treatment and their follow-up. Individualized itineraries may be also offered in various situations. Those structured clinical itineraries allowed to substantially reduce any delay in the management of patients. Patients are proposed to various clinical trials according to the status of their disease taking into account new possible therapeutic perspectives which could be interesting for them.

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CERTIFICATION(S) ACCREDITATION(S)

**Belgian Breast Cancer Clinic (over 150 new cases/year)**

Expiration date: 15 April 2016

Belgian Ministry of Health

This Centre has notified to be certified and, as such, been requested to upload the certification document for further information. When the certification document/s is/are provided, it is/they are made available hereafter.

Available services

- Radiology
- Breast Surgery
- Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery
- Pathology
- Medical Oncology
- Radiotherapy

- Nuclear Medicine
- Rehabilitation
- Genetic Counselling
- Data Management
- Psycho-oncology
- Breast Nurses

- Social Workers
- Nutritional Counselling
- Survivorship Groups
- Sexual Health Counselling
- Supportive and Palliative Care
- Integrative Medicine

Radiology

- Dedicated Radiologists** 6
- Mammograms per year** 15000
- 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)** 400
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 4
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 3
- Breast Surgery beds** 6
- 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** 2
- 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** 5

**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
- KI67

**Medical Oncology**

- Dedicated Breast Medical Oncologists** 4
- 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

Palliative Care

## Further Services and Facilities

**Nuclear Medicine**

Lymphoscintigraphy

Bone scan

Positron Emission Tomography (PET)

PET/CT scan

**Rehabilitation**

Prosthesis service

Physiotherapy

Lymph-oedema treatment

Fitness programme; yoga; tai-chi...

**Genetic Counselling**

Specialist Providing Genetic Counselling/Risk assessment service:

Dedicated Clinical Geneticist

Medical Oncologist

Breast Surgeon

General Surgeon

Gynaecologist

Gastroenterologist

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:**

Liège airport is 15 minutes away (by car) from the hospital.

**By train:**

Liège Guillemins station is approximately 3 Km from the hospital. Buses leave every 10 minutes. Take one of the following buses to Place Saint Lambert: 1, 4.

**By bus or sub-way/underground:**

From the city centre, take bus number 12, 75, 80, 80/, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 88, 175 to the CHC-Clinique >Saint-Joseph. Bus stop is right in the front of the hospital main entrance.

**By car:**

Via E25, motorway, and exit n. 33. Then follow arrows.

**Last modified:** 30 March 2016