



BREAST CENTRES NETWORK

Synergy among Breast Units

★ Unità di Senologia Ospedale Valduce - Como, Italy

General Information



New breast cancer cases treated per year 189

Breast multidisciplinary team members 12

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

Clinical Director: Luciana Ambrosiani, MD

Valduce Hospital is a local district hospital, located in Como city centre and serving Como lake area and its surroundings. Our Breast Service receives referrals from local GPs as well as from its dedicated Breast Screening Unit; 1600 new referrals are seen per year. Outpatient clinics allow urgent referrals to be seen within 7 days and all patients have appointments in 4 weeks. We treat surgically about 190 new breast cancers per year, along with surgery for benign breast disease. We offer a full range of operations for breast cancer, including conservative surgery with SN biopsy, immediate reconstruction following radical surgery and oncoplastic procedures (remodelling, lipofilling, contralateral symmetrisation and nipple areola reconstruction). The service is provided by a Multidisciplinary Team, consisting of Breast Surgeons, Breast Radiologists, Pathologist, Clinical Oncologist and Radiotherapist. The Breast Cancer Screening Programme is well established and provides 15,000 mammograms/year. Adjuvant treatments are discussed at our weekly MDT meetings: chemotherapy is given on site while radiation therapy (incl APB Radiation) is provided at our regional Radiotherapy centre.

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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** 3
- Mammograms per year** 17000
- 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)
- Elastography

Available work-up imaging equipment

- Computer Tomography
- Ultrasound
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- PET/CT scan
- CEUS

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)** 290
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons** 3
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year** 3
- Breast Surgery beds** 6
- Breast Nurse specialists** 2
- 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** 1
- 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
- Nipple areola reconstruction

Pathology

- Dedicated Breast Pathologists** 2

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)
- OSNA

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
- Evaluation of presence and percentage of in situ carcinoma

Medical Oncology

- Dedicated Breast Medical Oncologists** 1
- 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

Dedicated Consultant Geneticist

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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Radiology

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Breast Surgery

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Reconstructive Surgery

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Pathology

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Medical Oncology

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Radiotherapy

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How to reach us



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From airport:

From Malpensa Airport: take the A8 Motorway (Autostrada dei Laghi) towards Como, exit at Como Sud, then follow the indications for Como city centre and Valduce Hospital.

By train:

From Milan Cadorna Station, take the Ferrovie Nord train to Como Lake, then follow the indications (within walking distance).

From Milan Centrale Station, take the FS Train to Como San Giovanni station.

By car:

From Milan: A8 Motorway (Autostrada dei Laghi), exit at Como Sud, follow the indications to the city centre and Valduce Hospital (the main entrance is located in Via Dante, 11).

Last modified: 09 February 2016