Quality Breast Cancer Care: Can we do better?

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SON Fall Update
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Do we need to improve breast cancer care in BC?
How can we improve breast cancer care in BC?
• Review some of literature ‘guidelines’ and specialist recommendations

  National Library of Medicine, Agency for Health Care Research and Quality Oct 2004 (for example)

• Discuss whether goal is important
• Discuss barriers
• Discuss requirements to achieve goal
Diagnostics

• If a palpable breast mass is detected at least one of the following procedures should be completed within 3 months: FNA, Mammo, US, Bx or F/U visit

  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Diagnostics

• Tissue diagnosis should be obtained at the initial specialty visit for a palpable breast mass
  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Diagnostics

• If an FNA cannot rule out malignancy a tissue diagnosis should be obtained within 6 weeks

  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Diagnostics

• Suspicious screening mammography should be evaluated within 3 weeks with further assessment
  
  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Diagnostics

• Women with suspicious imaging requiring surgery for diagnosis should be operated on within 14 days of the surgical decision
  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Diagnostics

• Core biopsy rather than surgical biopsy should be procedure of choice for initial breast cancer diagnosis

  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Management

• Urgent referrals with confirmed breast cancer should be seen within 5 working days

  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Management

• As appropriate, women with stage 1 or 2 breast cancer should be offered the choice of mastectomy or breast conservation

  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Management

• Therapeutic surgery should be available within 21 days of surgical consultation for breast cancer
  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Management

• Women have breast conserving surgery should not require more than 2 therapeutic operations
  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Management

• Women having breast conserving surgery, should have their biopsy cavities marked with clips to facilitate radiation planning

  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Management

- Operative reports should contain details of the margins (e.g., pectoralis fascia was taken, very thin anterior margin)
  - Important?
  - Barriers?
  - Requirements to achieve?
Management

• Women who are clinically node negative, should be offered sentinel node biopsy for axillary staging (unless contra-indicated)

  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Management

• All women with curable breast cancer should receive an opinion regarding adjuvant therapy
  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
Management

• Early referral or discussion, especially for persons with LABC or with a definite indication for chemotherapy

  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?
• Early referral for persons with medical issues and/or social issues that will impact their breast cancer care
  
  – Important?
  – Barriers?
  – Requirements to achieve?