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Sentinel lymph node biopsy in breast cancer: The approach in day surgery under local anesthesia for quality-of-life and significant cost reduction

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Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) is widely used in the management of breast cancer patients. Purpose of the study is to investigate the approach in day-surgery (DS) under local anesthesia (LA), for quality of life and significant cost reduction. We performed 652 quadrantectomy and SLNB in day-surgery (DS) under local anesthesia (LA) at the same time. All patients underwent pre-operative lymphoscintigraphy with injection of 12-15 MBq ⁹⁹Tc colloidal albumin particles. All patients underwent surgical treatment 3-12 h later. Axillary incision was 3-4 cm. 10 patients underwent pre-operative lymphoscintigraphy the radiotracer did not show any sentinel lymph node (SLN), in 6 cases we performed axillary dissection (AD). In 3 cases the axilla was positive. In 15 cases of multifocal (MF) and 10 of multi-centric (MC) invasive breast cancer, the SLN was identified in axilla and SLNB was performed. Only 2 case of MC cancer the SLN was positive. 30 patients classified T4b, were treated with neo-adjuvant chemotherapy (NC). After completion of NC, we performed SLNB. In these patients SLN was negative. 14 cases showed axillary isolated tumor cells (ITC), 39 micrometastases and 69 macrometastases. The SLN identification rate was 99%. This approach is safe, well accepted by patients who reported with a questionnaire better quality of life (99%). We observed less incidence of nosocomial infection and loss of working days. Operations in DS and LA can be easily managed, leading to a significant cost reduction over 55% less expensive than the same operation performed under general anesthesia.

Biography

Fabio Ricci graduated in Medicine and Surgery with Honors, University of Rome "La Sapienza" in 1984. He is specializing in Gynecology and Oncology with honors. He is a breast specialist surgeon and Surgeon General. He is the author and co-author for 80 scientific papers published in national and international journals.

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