

Management of Multifocal/Multicentric Breast Cancer: Current Perspective

Amelia Milulescu^{1,2}, Luigi Di Marino³, Nickolas Peradze⁴, Antonio Toesca⁴

¹Elias University Hospital, Bucharest Romania

²Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania

³Department of Mini-Invasive General Surgery, University of Federico II Naples, Italy

⁴Division of Breast Surgery, European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy

Abstract

The incidence of multifocal (MF) and multicentric (MC) breast cancer has a wide variation among different clinical studies, mostly due to the lack of a standardized classification and definition of these two separate entities. The optimal surgical treatment for multiple ipsilateral breast cancer remains a long debated subject. Multifocal and multicentric breast cancer is usually considered a relative contraindication for breast conserving therapy (BCT). In this narrative review we analyzed differences between MC and MF early breast cancer, the role of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in detection of multiple breast lesions, and its role in the surgical approach. We evaluate data from the literature about feasibility of breast conservative surgery and loco-regional treatment modalities. Recent studies brought evidence that treatment of patients with MC/MF breast cancer with BCT plus radiotherapy and adjuvant systemic therapy can have low-rates for in-breast recurrence. Prospective studies are needed to confirm these findings.

Key words: breast, cancer, breast conservative surgery, mastectomy, multicentric breast cancer, multifocal breast cancer, nipple-sparing mastectomy, breast reconstruction