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Breast Cancer staging with Ultrasound – Nodal Basin Assessment

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The prognosis of patients with breast cancer is determined in large part by the stage of disease at diagnosis. The TNM staging system for breast cancer takes into account the size of the primary tumor (T), involvement of regional lymph nodes (N), and the presence or absence of distant metastases (M). At our institution, all patients with breast cancer undergo whole breast ultrasound for locoregional staging. Whole-breast sonography is performed to evaluate for multifocal or multicentric disease. In addition, the regional nodal basins, including the axillary, infraclavicular, supraclavicular, and internal mammary regions, are scanned. Metastatic adenopathy in these areas may upstage disease and influence prognosis. Clinical management and treatment

decisions may be altered by ultrasound detection of nodal disease.

The objectives of this lecture session include:

- 1) A brief review of updated breast cancer staging by AJCC 8th edition
- 2) A review of regional nodal basin assessment with ultrasound
- 3) A review of anatomic classification of regional lymph nodes
- 4) A review of the role of US guided biopsy of indeterminate regional lymph nodes.

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