

Advanced breast biopsy instrument (ABBI) system

Ernst Kubista

University of Vienna, Women`s Clinic, Department of Special Gynaecology, Vienna, Austria

Several methods have been developed in the last 10-15 years to reduce the extension of surgery in the treatment of breast cancer. First of all, it is well known that breast conservation does not impair the prognosis of patients with breast cancer and therefore the rate of breast conserving therapy has been rapidly increasing in the countries with high medical standard. For example, in our institution and within the Austrian Co-operative Study Group of Breast Cancer, the rate of breast conservation has been raised from 35% up to 75% in the last 10 years.

This has been mainly due to the fact that postoperative radiation therapy has been improved extensively. Concerning operation in the axilla region the development of sentinel node technique has brought the opportunity to reduce the extension of surgery in the axilla and to improve the rate of postoperative morbidity. Although the logistic problems in performing this technique are evident it is necessary to enhance its use as much as possible.

Another new technique is the so-called "ABBI-system" (advanced breast biopsy instrument). This procedure is used to remove small lesion under local anaesthesia. It also allows to perform the diagnosis and treatment of minor breast cancers in one step. It is important that these techniques, the sentinel node biopsy and ABBI-system are performed in controlled trial conditions to find out the possibilities and limitations of this new method.

Correspondence to: Prof. Ernst Kubista, M.D., Ph.D., University of Vienna, Women`s clinic, Department of Special Gynaecology, Währinger Gürtel 18-20, 1090 Vienna, Austria. Phone: +43 1 404 002 881; +43 1 406 6749.