Opposing Oncologic and Cosmetic challenges for breast conserving surgery for retro-areolar primary cancer lesion.



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 Breast conservation with radiation therapy has now become the standard surgical management for patients with stage 1 and 2 breast cancer in the 21st century



 Approximately 5-20% of breast cancers are located centrally, and these tumours are traditionally treated with a mastectomy



Oncological Safety Net

- Oncology reigns supreme
- Clear margins as per unit protocols
- Multi-disciplinary management
- Radiation therapy decisions are determined prior to starting primary chemotherapy
- Clips for surgical beds

 Locally advanced central tumours, which have had a good response to primary chemotherapy, are not contraindications for central breast excisions and reconstruction



Radiology Translational radiology

- Mammograms, ultrasound, MRI scanning and now breast tomosynthesis to gain as close to a 3D idea of position of the tumour in the breast
- Size of the lesion and extent of intraduct component prior to planning oncoplastic procedures

Surgical Safety Net

- Breast and tumour size are closely related,
- Depth of the tumour to the nipple areolar complex should also be assessed
- Discuss with patient about nipple areolar complex loss probabilities



Psychology

- Issues around cancer recurrence with breast conservation, loss of nipple areolar complex, radiation complications, future radiological follow-up and patient anxiety all play a role in determining choice of procedure and reconstruction.
- All options highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of each procedure and the technical challenges should be discussed with the patient

Patient Factors

- General patient factors, medical and social (diabetes, obesity and smoking, and prosthesis
- contraindications for radiation should be assessed prior to offering any procedure



General Principles

- Discussion in oncoplastic , clinical radiology meetings prior to procedure
- Pre-operative skin markings denoting technique most likely to be used for that parenchymal excision
- Evaluation of the most likely technique (volume displacement or replacement) to be used
- Risk to nipple areolar complex, and best adaptation of the central breast mound
- Need for opposite breast symmetrisation, and selection of incisions, and techniques and scar placements for the opposite side

Volume displacement techniques





Retaining Nipple Areola

- Tumours that are located deep to the nipple areolar complex, may if intraoperative margins are clear result in retention of the nipple areolar complex
- Again care to ensure blood supply to the nipple areolar complex is retained is essential in performing this procedure

Volume replacement techniques

 In women, who prefer breast conservation surgery, but whose tumour to breast ratio prevents a volume displacement technique, the use of loco-regional flaps may be employed for central lesions







The Nipple

- Reconstruction of nipple areolar complex can be performed at the same procedure or at a later stage
- Delayed reconstruction is generally safer, and should be performed 6 months post radiation



Conclusions

 Central breast carcinomas are no longer required to be treated by mastectomy, and the use of a variety of oncoplastic techniques are available today to ensure a satisfactory cosmetic outcome while ensuring minimum complications and good long term oncological safety