

E12. Ultrasound in breast cancer: current status and future trends

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The International Breast Ultrasound School (IBUS) was formed in December 1991 by a dedicated international group of breast ultrasound experts to provide high-quality multidisciplinary teaching seminars in breast ultrasound, and to improve the quality of ultrasonic examinations for assessing the breast and its pathology. IBUS has been successful in providing workshops in many countries worldwide and has provided almost 50 courses since the first programme was held in Rhodes in 1992. Over the years, courses have been held in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa, and more than 6000 clinicians have participated in lectures, demonstration sessions and 'hands-on' interactive workshops. IBUS is continuing with its educational commitments, and is planning to conduct four to six seminars each year in different countries. Moreover, IBUS is a non-profit society organisation with considerable experience in education and the knowledge to teach this special subject.

In addition to teaching breast ultrasound, IBUS has published in the *European Journal of Ultrasound* in 1999 a set of guidelines designed to improve the standards of ultrasonic breast examinations. The guidelines have been adopted by a number of national breast ultrasound societies, and are included on the IBUS website (<http://www.ibus.org>).

Ultrasound imaging is now widely accepted as a very reliable imaging technique for assessment of the breast and is now used routinely in the diagnostic assessment of most benign and malignant breast problems. Breast ultrasound is an important adjunct to mammography in the clinical assessment of both palpable and impalpable breast abnormalities and is now regarded as the technique of first choice for image-guided interventional procedures such as needle biopsy and localisation for surgery.

This specialist workshop continues the work of IBUS over the past 14 years and promotes best practice in ultrasound of the breast by providing lectures and practical demonstrations delivered by renowned experts in the field. This half-day special workshop concentrates on the role of the latest ultrasound technology in providing diagnosis and staging of breast cancer.

The programme starts with an overview of the latest ultrasound technology and its applications. This is followed by an overview of current practice in breast cancer screening, with an analysis of the current data on the potential role of ultrasound in this very important area of early diagnosis.

Staging of breast cancer prior to treatment is becoming increasingly important and the programme includes an illustrated overview of how breast ultrasound can be used to assess the extent of disease within the breast and how to assess possible spread of disease into the axilla.

The highlight of this special workshop is live demonstrations of breast ultrasound techniques. Conventional breast ultrasound will be demonstrated, with particular emphasis on the technique of three-dimensional imaging of the breast. Following this, to emphasise the importance of ultrasound-guided biopsy there will be a demonstration of live biopsy and ultrasound-guided vacuum biopsy excision of breast lesion transmitted from a local clinic in Nice.

The workshop concludes with lectures on the challenge of ultrasound in the diagnosis of ductal carcinoma *in situ* and the role of Doppler ultrasound in breast diagnosis.

Throughout the workshop there will be time for discussion and questions from the delegates.