



Reducing Rates of Repeat Operations for Women with Breast Cancer

Why Breast Cancer Surgery?



Location

Surgical procedures for breast cancer are commonly performed in the majority of hospitals across Wisconsin, and there is wide variation in observed rates of repeat operations for positive margins.



Evidence-based guidelines have impact

A toolkit of evidence-based interventions was developed by a national consensus conference with the goal of improving breast cancer care by minimizing the need for repeat operations.



Ensure equal access to high-quality surgical care

Despite clear benefits, elements of the toolkit are challenging to implement because they require both surgeon- and system-level changes in the way care is delivered.

The Problem

- 80 percent of women with Stage I or II breast cancer are eligible to undergo lumpectomy followed by radiation. A repeat operation is needed if “adequate margins” are not achieved, leading to increased cost and burden for patients and hospitals.
- Surveys of surgeons have found considerable inconsistencies in the definition of “adequate margins,” leading to significant variation in rates of reoperation, ranging from 0–70 percent in Wisconsin.
- A national consensus conference of experts in breast cancer care developed a toolkit of evidence-based interventions at the surgeon and hospital level to minimize repeat operations. Interventions include:
 - Complete diagnostic mammography (and ultrasound when needed), minimally invasive breast biopsy, and preoperative multidisciplinary planning
 - Preoperative localization of non-palpable lesions, intraoperative pathology, and specimen imaging
 - Oncoplastic lumpectomy technique, cavity shaves, and compliance with the SSO-ASTRO Margin Guideline
- Despite publication of the toolkit, rates of reoperation for women with breast cancer remain high and vary considerably.

How will SCW help reduce the rate of repeat operations?

- Provide confidential, benchmarked performance reports at hospital and surgeon levels using existing administrative data for rates of reoperation and mastectomy.
- Distribute a comprehensive toolkit to assist in implementation of evidence-based interventions, tailored to each practice setting.
- Create a platform for both in-person and virtual collaborative learning.
 - Opportunities for interactive problem solving and brainstorming
 - Overview of specific topics, prioritized by participating hospitals

Interested in participating?

- We welcome participation by surgeons, nurses, quality improvement specialists, and others involved in the care of patients with breast cancer.
- To receive a benchmarked performance report, a Participating Hospital/Facility Agreement must be signed.
- For more information, please contact us: info@scwisconsin.org or (608) 263-3381