

BREAST IMAGING SOCIETY, INDIA

QUALITY ASSURANCE GUIDELINES FOR BREAST IMAGING

INTRODUCTION

Breast Imaging Society, India was established with the aim of improving Breast Imaging standards in India which in turn would lead to the improvement of breast health care in India. Central to improving Breast Radiology in the country is the achievement of a uniform standard of investigation and care for all Indian women irrespective of their location, monetary status and hospital/ diagnostic centre they avail services from. This is an attempt at providing all Breast imagers and imaging institutions a framework with which they can maintain optimum quality of breast imaging services. The language has been kept simple and guidelines are practical for the Indian subcontinent so that radiologists and radiographers can easily understand and apply the guidelines in their day to day practice.

A task group was formed by BISI to draw Quality Assurance standards for all breast imaging modalities. The aim is to keep this framework simple and practical, so that it is easily readable and applicable in all situations. We understand that not every unit may be able to afford the best equipment for all investigations. In the absence of a national population based breast screening programme, the number of breast investigations may be too small in some units (such as small diagnostic centres) to allow investment into state of the art equipment. However it is possible to achieve optimum breast imaging standards with the application of thought and attention to the basic aspects of breast imaging requirements. For example even a small diagnostic centre can buy a linear probe with optimum features for breast imaging, when a ultrasound machine is being bought, as long as they are aware of the requirements for breast ultrasound. The purpose of this document is to set the basic optimum machine, radiographer, radiologist and working condition standards that are advisable for breast imaging in our country.

These guidelines have been formulated with the knowledge and experience of the task group members and other members of BISI, and care has been taken to make this relevant for large institutions as well as small diagnostic centres. Recommendations have been made keeping in mind the need for this to be cost effective. We understand that our country has a unique medical system, which brings its own positive benefits as well as its own challenges. We hope that the medical fraternity will appreciate and follow our recommendations. Most importantly we hope that these recommendations will result in saving precious lives and make our efforts worthwhile!

The members of the Task group for Quality Assurance look forward to your comments and positive criticism. This is the first edition of these guidelines and we hope Breast Imaging Society, India will further update these guidelines in the future. Your comments will help us in this endeavour.

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