

BREAST IMAGING SOCIETY, INDIA

BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES IN BREAST IMAGING

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a framework for the referring doctors and practising radiologists, to enable them to choose the appropriate investigation for patients with breast symptoms and signs. Guidelines are also available for breast screening. There are guidelines for breast investigations and also algorithms for specific breast symptoms/signs in this document. The aim is to keep this framework simple and practical. We hope that these guidelines will be able to guide specialist breast radiologists as well as doctors who do not routinely deal with breast diseases, to make appropriate decisions for their patients.

There are many breast imaging guidelines from countries that have population based breast screening programmes. These programmes vary from country to country and hence there are different guidelines from different breast societies in the world. Due to lack of data specific to our country, to draw specific guidelines for India was a challenge. However a few concepts and facts are recognised all over the world and these can be applied to the Indian population in general. There are other facts that are specific to our country, such as increasing incidence of breast cancer in younger women, and guidelines have been made keeping these in mind.

Please note that these are broad guidelines for breast screening and management of patients with breast symptoms in India, intended for the use of qualified medical caregivers only. These are based on various guidelines and personal experiences and opinions of BISI members, as there is no large credible Indian data to formulate these guidelines. These guidelines are purely recommendatory and general purpose only in nature. Actual decisions for management of the patients should be individualized according to own judgment of the caregiver and tailored on case-to-case basis. As scientific knowledge is continuously improving, a regular update of the same by the caregiver is essential. Failure to do so may result in untoward patient management or outcome and BISI members or BISI as the organization cannot be held responsible for that in any manner.

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