

Division of Plastic Surgery

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Activities 2007. The Division of Plastic Surgery is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life of the patients treated for a cancer at the EIO. Most of the reconstructive procedures are well-known and currently applied in our service since many years. However, the recent modification of the cancer protocols such as the irradiation of the thoracic wall in case of extensive involvement of the axilla, led us to question the indications of immediate breast reconstruction. We are studying the proposal of the MD Anderson team of a two stage procedure using the short expansion with an expander introduced at the time of the mastectomy and a replacement by an autologous reconstruction as soon as we are informed of the lymphnode status.

Also the reshaping of the conservative surgery (so called oncoplastic surgery) with prosthesis implantation can be done safely now that the protocol of radiotherapy includes more frequently, the intra operative irradiation which decreases the risk of post radiation capsular contracture.

The Nipple Sparing Mastectomy protocol is going on rapidly since we gathered up to now more than 1000 cases in 6 years. Four studies will be send for publication this year dedicated to the local recurrences, to the delayed radiotherapy, to the global experience of the IEO and finally to the psychological improvement of the nipple areola preservation.

Our study on prosthesis physical and mechanical modifications after explantation is also going on thanks to the good collaboration with the Istituto Politecnico labs. The first results will not be ready before one year.

Since one year we are using a new technique of lipofilling to improve the shape of the reconstructed breast without removing the implant. This technique provides many opportunities of clinical research, especially concerning the selection of stem cells.

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Admissions		Day Hospital	
Admissions	751	Cycles	547
-Surgery Adm	722	-Surgery Cyc	526
-Medical Adm	29	-Medical Cyc	21
Surgical Index	96,14%	Surgical Index	96,16%
Days	2.364	Treatments	547
Alos	3,15	Alos Treat	1,00
ARW	1,06	ARW	0,90



Plastic surgery is also required after other cancers such as head and neck, thoracic, gynaecologic and soft tissue tumors where the large defects created by the tumour removal should be reconstructed with a large armamentarium of flaps including microsurgery or endoscopic techniques.

Microsurgery at the IEO is developed as a multidisciplinary surgery remaining at the disposal of the different specialties, (head and neck, plastic, thoracic gynaecologic, general surgery and skin and soft tissue surgery). An effort is made to increase this activity for breast reconstruction despite the difficulties resulting from the operating schedule.

Plastic surgery not only improves the quality of life of cancer patients but also provides a better surgical excision of the tumours by the cancer surgeon who knows that the reconstruction is available immediately in the same time of the cancer treatment.

Five articles have been published in 2007 on peer-reviewed journals and one in a book on breast surgery.