

ABS Consensus Margin Width in Breast Conservation Surgery

1. **ABS advises a one millimetre (1mm) minimum clear radial margin is achieved after breast conservation surgery for early invasive breast cancer**
2. **ABS advises a one millimetre (1mm) minimum clear radial margin is achieved after breast conservation surgery for in situ carcinoma of the breast**

At the ABS Conference & AGM in Bournemouth on 15th June 2015 a session was devoted to a discussion on what should be the most appropriate advice on the minimum acceptable margin after breast conservation surgery in early breast cancer. Talks were given on current UK-based guidelines, the histopathological process of margin determination, literature reviews on the relevant margin evidence for both invasive and in situ disease and practice and guidelines adopted in other countries.

370 voter key pads were available. 61% of the voters were consultant breast surgeons, 24% non-consultant breast surgeons, 6% breast care nurses and the remainder were consultants from other disciplines and allied health professionals. Motions were proposed and voted on.

The first motion was “The ABS advises a one millimetre minimum clear radial margin is achieved after breast conservation surgery for **early invasive breast cancer**”.

- 88% voted in favour
- 12% voted against.

Voting breakdown showed that 88% of the consultant breast surgeons voted in favour of the motion.

The second motion was “The ABS advises a one millimetre minimum clear radial margin is achieved after breast conservation surgery for **in situ carcinoma of the breast**.”

- 69% voted in favour
- 31% voted against.

Voting breakdown showed that 69% of the consultant breast surgeons voted in favour as did 80% of the specialist surgical trainees. 50% of trust doctors and 34% of breast care nurses voted against.

Those who voted against the motions were asked to indicate their reasons;

- 45% thought 1mm was too much,
- 31% thought 1mm was too little
- 24% would prefer to decide each case on an individual patient basis.

82% of the voters thought they would adopt the consensus statements in their practice and 11% stated they might do so.

72% thought their MDT would adopt the consensus statements and a further 22% thought they might do so.

Webcasts of the presentation and discussion from the session at the ABS Conference & AGM are available on the ABS website:

<http://www.associationofbreastsurgery.org.uk/abs-events/past-meetings/abs-conference-agm-2015/>