

Breast Surgery

GUIDELINE	DOCUMENT	ORGANISATION/ COUNTRY	YEAR PUBLISHED
Antibiotic prophylaxis	ABS Summary Statement: Guidelines on antibiotic prophylaxis in breast surgery	Association of Breast Surgery, UK	2015
Comments: None			
Antibiotic prophylaxis	Prophylactic antibiotics to prevent surgical site infection after breast cancer surgery (review)	Cochrane Library, UK	2014
Comments: The comprehensive review by the Cochrane team concludes that prophylactic antibiotics can reduce surgical site infection in breast cancer surgery. The Cochrane reviewers do not comment on antibiotic usage in breast reconstruction patients. This topic is covered by the ABS summary statement.			
Documentation	ABS Summary Statement: Breast operation note documentation	Association of Breast Surgery, UK	2015
Comments: None			
Documentation	ABS Summary Statement: Consent Best Practice	Association of Breast Surgery, UK	2018
Comments: The principle of consent is an important part of medical ethics and human rights law. The ABS' Clinical Practice and Standards Committee has produced this best practice guidance for its members.			
Fibroadenoma management	ABS Summary Statement: Management of fibroadenomas	Association of Breast Surgery, UK	2019
Comments: This guidance document on the management of fibroadenomas has been produced by the ABS with the involvement of representatives from the British Society of Breast Radiologists and the National Coordinating Committee of Breast Pathology.			
Gynaecomastia	ABS Summary Statement: Investigation and management of gynaecomastia in primary and secondary care	Association of Breast Surgery, UK	2021
Comments: The Association of Breast Surgery has produced clinical guidance for the investigation and management of gynaecomastia. There are recommendations for appropriate investigation of patients and recommended referral pathways to ensure most appropriate care.			

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Gynaecomastia	Gynaecomastia Infographic for Primary Care	Association of Breast Surgery, UK	2021
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Royal College of General Practitioners have endorsed the ABS infographic for the assessment and referral of gynaecomastia patients in Primary Care. ABS members are welcome to download this infographic and share amongst primary and secondary care colleagues. The infographic supplements the ABS Summary Statement: Investigation and management of gynaecomastia in primary and secondary care</p>			
Management of nipple discharge	ABS Summary Statement: Guidelines for the investigation and management of spontaneous nipple discharge in the absence of a breast lump	Association of Breast Surgery, UK	2019
<p>Comments:</p> <p>This guidance document on the management of nipple discharge has been produced by the ABS with the involvement of representatives from the British Society of Breast Radiologists and the National Coordinating Committee of Breast Pathology.</p>			
Negative Pressure Wound Dressings: Veraflo	Medical Technologies Guidance MTG54	NICE, UK	2021
<p>Comments:</p> <p>NICE conclude that the VAC Veraflo Therapy system shows promise for treating acute infected or chronic wounds that are not healing. However there is not enough good-quality evidence to support the case for routine adoption. Although there are potential benefits for patients and the NHS, more evidence is needed to be certain of VAC Veraflo Therapy system's clinical effectiveness and potential for cost savings compared with negative pressure wound therapy.</p>			
Paediatric Breast Patients	Guidance & Pathways for the Assessment of Children with Breast Symptoms	Association of Breast Surgery, UK	2021
<p>Comments:</p> <p>ABS has collaborated with colleagues from the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health to produce these guidelines for the assessment of children with breast symptoms.</p>			
Sutures	Plus sutures for preventing surgical site infection	NICE, UK	2021
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Plus sutures (Ethicon, Johnson & Johnson Medical) are a range of absorbable sutures that are either impregnated or coated with the antimicrobial triclosan. NICE medical technologies guidance recommend using Plus Sutures as part of a bundle of care to reduce surgical site infections. When compared with non-triclosan absorbable sutures, using Plus sutures results in a average cost saving of £13.62 per patient by reducing surgical site infections.</p> <p>Based on this NICE guidance, it seems reasonable to use Plus sutures for the majority of breast surgical wound closures as using these sutures results in a nearly 30% reduced risk of wound infections. This may be particularly applicable to implant based breast reconstruction and wound closure in high risk patients such as smokers, diabetics and those with a high BMI.</p>			

Guidance Platform

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VTE	Venous thromboembolism prophylaxis for patients undergoing breast operations	Cochrane Library, UK	2015
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Comments:

The incidence of VTE is lower after breast surgery than that seen following abdominal or lower limb surgery. The American Society of Breast Surgeons have produced well referenced recommendations on VTE prophylaxis for breast patients. ABS finds this document a useful tool that members could consider during discussions with their own hospital trust when formulating local VTE prophylaxis regimes.

Wound drains	Wound drainage after plastic & reconstructive surgery of the breast	Cochrane Library, UK	2015
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Comments:

The Cochrane Reviewers find little evidence to support the routine use of drains following reduction mammoplasty. They conclude that there are not enough published data to make recommendations for routine drain use in breast reconstruction.

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The guideline title in the document column includes a hyperlink to the relevant guideline. Please view the document on the ABS website to follow these links.