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EP-238 Challenges of delivering a tertiary breast cancer service during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Introduction: Delivering a breast service during the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging. At our tertiary referral centre, we have had to coordinate care across multiple sites in order to maintain provision of services. This study looks at how this was achieved at the Nottingham Breast Institute (NBI) by a team of 6 Consultant Surgeons.

Methods: This was a retrospective review of a prospective data base (managed by one Consultant Oncoplastic surgeon) of all patients treated at the NBI over a period of 18 months, at the start the pandemic from March 2020 to October 2021. Data collected included patient demographics, hospital site, and type of surgery.

Results: Over the 18 months 1191 patients were operated on. The average age was 57.8 years (range 17 to 86); as expected the commonest indication was cancer (93.1%). 11.3% of those patients (125/1109) received neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Of these 37.4% of patients (N=446) were operated on at our usual operative base site (NBI). 49.5% and the majority of cases (N=589) were performed across two independent hospitals and a smaller proportion (12.9%) was conducted at a fourth hospital which offered 23 hour stay facilities.

Conclusions: Despite the challenges of securing operative capacity, thus far, we have been able to deliver over 1000 breast cancer surgeries during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is due in part to multisite working, surgeon flexibility, and oversight of all the patient pathways collated on one database by a dedicated surgeon.