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Impact on clinical management of after-hours emergent or urgent breast ultrasonography in patients with clinically suspected breast abscesses

Newly diagnosed breast abscesses are generally treated as a medical emergency that may necessitate immediate interventional treatment. At our institution, there is no in-house after-hours coverage for breast ultrasonography. We could find no peer-reviewed studies on the cost-effectiveness or clinical management impact of on-call ultrasound technologist coverage for imaging of breast abscesses. The purposes of this study is to determine the incidence of breast abscess in patients with clinical findings highly suggestive of abscess, identify clinical factors associated with breast abscess in such patients, and determine the impact of after-hours emergent or urgent breast ultrasonography on the clinical management of breast abscesses in both outpatients and inpatients. We retrospectively reviewed 100 after-hours breast ultrasound studies performed at our tertiary care center from 2011 to 2015 for evaluation of a suspected breast abscess. Only 26% of our patients with clinically suspected abscess ultimately had a confirmed abscess. Factors associated with breast abscess were a palpable abnormality and a history of breast surgery within the eight weeks before presentation. After-hours diagnosis of an abscess was associated with after-hours clinical intervention. Of the 74 patients in whom after-hours ultrasound imaging showed no evidence of abscess, only three patients underwent after-hours drainage. Our findings support overnight and weekend breast ultrasound coverage in large tertiary care centers.

Biography

Tanya Moseley received her Doctorate of Medicine with Honors at the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa (USA). She entered a Clinical Residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota, and continued on at the same clinic in a Clinical Fellowship in mammography and thoracic imaging. After completing her fellowship, she joined the clinic as a Senior Associate Consultant, and then joined the Division of Diagnostic Imaging at MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is presently a Professor of Diagnostic Radiology and Breast Surgical Oncology; former Fellowship Director of Breast Imaging and developed an outstanding Breast Ultrasound Course at the same center respectively. She has distinguished herself as a top-notch Radiologist, Clinician, Educator, Researcher, and Leader in her field. She is a world-class teacher to undergraduates, residents, fellows, medical students, and breast imaging technologists having supervised and trained numerous visiting scientists, residents, and fellows over the past 20 years. She received the 2017 University of Texas Regents Outstanding Teaching Award. She is the past Breast Section Program Chair and Breast Section Course Director of the American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS) Case-Based Imaging Review Breast Section.

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