

2nd International Congress on

Contemporary Issues in Women Cancers & Gynecologic Oncology

August 29-30, 2017 | London, UK



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Ultrasound screening of breast and gynecologic cancers

The death rates from breast and cervical cancer are increasing in countries with limited resources. Mammography is the gold standard for breast cancer screening with proven reduction in mortality in populations who are regularly screened. PAP and HPV testing for cervical cancer has the same proven mortality reduction in populations regularly screened. The implementation of screening programs in countries with limited resources is an ongoing work in progress, the initiation and maintenance limited by financial, infrastructural and political constraints. Breast cancer screening with ultrasound, as it has become increasingly performed and studied has been shown to diagnose early as well as invasive cancers that are small, node negative and require less extensive treatment. There is no currently accepted ultrasound screening protocol for cervical, uterine and ovarian cancer. Yet, cancer in these organs is well demonstrated by ultrasound and can be diagnosed in early stages. The use, quality and application of ultrasound in countries with limited resources have increased in the past decade as the equipment has become less expensive, more portable, and more available. The best chance to improve cancer outcomes in these countries in the short and even long term is through interventions that are realistic, practical and cost-effective. This research evaluates the current status and potential for ultrasound screening for breast and gynecologic cancers as it would benefit populations with limited resources.

Biography

Annina N Wilkes completed a Fellowship in Breast Imaging and Ultrasound at The Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and has remained on Staff there for the past 27 years as Clinical Associate Professor specializing in Breast Imaging and Diagnostic Ultrasound. She has served as Director of the Breast Imaging Center and has been actively involved in research throughout her career participating in clinical trials in digital mammography and breast ultrasound screening. She is currently involved in research in breast ultrasound contrast agents. She has served as an International Visiting Professor through the Radiologic Society of North America evaluating the best practice screening method for reducing mortality from breast and gynecologic cancer in countries with limited resources.

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