

Clinical practice guidelines for pre-operative evaluation of breast cancer: Chinese Society of Breast Surgery (CSBrS) practice guidelines 2021.

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Publication year: 2021

Journal: Chinese medical journal

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Society: European Respiratory Society

Origin country: International (Europe)

Target countries: Europe

DOI: 10.1097/CM9.0000000000001520

PMID: 34039864

Source: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34039864/>

pmc Chin Med J (Engl) Chin Med J (Engl) 2337 chinesemj 7513795 CM9 Chinese Medical Journal 0366-6999 2542-5641 Wolters Kluwer Health PMC8478365 PMC8478365.1 8478365 8478365 34039864 10.1097/CM9.0000000000001520 CMJ-2021-591 1 Consensus Statement Clinical practice guidelines for pre-operative evaluation of breast cancer: Chinese Society of Breast Surgery (CSBrS) practice guidelines 2021 Zheng Chao Yu Zhi-Gang Chinese Society of Breast Surgery Yin Yan-Jie Hao Xiu-Yuan Department of Breast Surgery, The Second Hospital, Cheeloo College of Medicine, Shandong University, Jinan, Shandong 250033, China. Correspondence to: Dr. Zhi-Gang Yu, Department of Breast Surgery, The Second Hospital, Cheeloo College of Medicine, Shandong University, Jinan, Shandong 250033, China E-Mail: yzg@medmail.com.cn 20 9 2021 19 5 2021 134 18 390910 2147 2149 01 3 2021 20 09 2021 30 09 2021 06 05 2024 Copyright © 2021 The Chinese Medical Association, produced by Wolters Kluwer, Inc. under the CC-BY-NC-ND license. 2021 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/> This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives License 4.0 (CCBY-NC-ND), where it is permissible to download and share the work provided it is properly cited. The work cannot be changed in any way or used commercially without permission from the journal. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0> pmc-status-qastatus 0 pmc-status-live yes pmc-status-embargo no pmc-status-released yes pmc-prop-open-access yes pmc-prop-olf no pmc-prop-manuscript no pmc-prop-legally-suppressed no pmc-prop-has-pdf yes pmc-prop-has-supplement yes pmc-prop-pdf-only no pmc-prop-suppress-copyright no pmc-prop-is-real-version no pmc-prop-is-scanned-article no pmc-prop-preprint no pmc-prop-in-epmc yes pmc-license-ref CC BY-NC-ND OPEN-ACCESS TRUE Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in China. Since Halsted introduced radical mastectomy, surgery has remained the cornerstone of breast cancer treatment. Before performing such surgery, a comprehensive and standardized evaluation should be undertaken. This should include identification of factors that could increase the risk of surgery or prejudice recovery, as well as factors that may affect the subsequent course of the disease. The Chinese Society of Breast Surgery (CSBrS) has conducted a literature review and experts have discussed key clinical issues related to standardizing pre-operative evaluation of patients with breast cancer; evaluated the relevant evidence with reference to the grading of recommendations assessment, development, and evaluation system; combined the accessibility under China's national conditions; and formulated the following written Clinical Practice Guidelines for Pre-operative Evaluation of Breast Cancer (2021 Edition) with the aim of providing a reference for Chinese breast surgeons.

A total of 84 members of the voting committee of this guideline, including 71 breast surgeons (84.52%), four oncologists (4.76%), four radiologists (4.76%), two pathologist (2.38%), two radiation therapist (2.38%), and one epidemiologist (1.19%).

Recommendation 2: Anesthesia-related evaluation.

Recommendation 3: Tumor-related evaluation

CT: Computed tomography; MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging; PET: Positron emission tomography.

Pre-operative evaluation is an important aspect of the surgical treatment of breast cancer, basically determining the success or failure of such surgery, including whether it is curative. Surgeons should make pre-operative evaluation a high priority, especially for older or frail patients and those with serious comorbidities. [2 – 4]

The CSBrS panel recommends that patients with breast cancer should also be subjected to pre-operative oncology evaluation [10 , 11] by breast ultrasound, mammography, and breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to identify the number of lesions, their locations and size, regional lymph node status, and distant metastases. [10 , 15 , 16] Tumor node metastasis stage should be determined in accordance with the eighth edition of the Cancer Staging Manual issued by the American Joint Committee on Cancer. [17] The CSBrS panel stresses that the application value of breast MRI should be fully understood: it has high sensitivity and can show multi-focal, multi-centric, or occult tumors, the relationship between tumor and chest wall, and axillary lymph node metastasis, thus providing a reliable basis for development of a surgical plan. However, it is only moderately specific, does not satisfactorily display microcalcification, and sometimes produces false positives. Thus, decisions about surgery cannot be made purely on the basis of MRI findings. [10 – 12 , 15 , 16]

The expert committee for these guidelines declares no conflict of interest.

These guidelines are a reference for breast disease specialists in clinical practice. However, the guidelines are not to be used as the basis for medical evaluation, and do not play an arbitrating role in the handling of any medical disputes. The guidelines are not a reference for patients or non-breast specialists. The Chinese Society of Breast Surgery assumes no responsibility for results involving the inappropriate application of these guidelines, and reserves the right to interpret and revise the guidelines.

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How to cite this article: Zheng C, Yu ZG, Chinese Society of Breast Surgery. Clinical practice guidelines for pre-operative evaluation of breast cancer: Chinese Society of Breast Surgery (CSBrS) practice guidelines 2021. Chin Med J 2021;134:2147–2149. doi: 10.1097/CM9.0000000000001520

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