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Preop breast MRI improves DCIS surgical planning

By Kate Madden Yee, AuntMinnie.com staff writer

July 9, 2019 -- Preoperative breast MRI improves the surgical planning and outcomes of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), according to a new study published online July 5 in *Academic Radiology*.

The findings offer clinicians a valuable tool for treating women with pure DCIS diagnosed by core-needle biopsy, wrote a team led by Dr. Diana Lam of the University of Washington School of Medicine and the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

"Because over 90% of DCIS lesions are clinically asymptomatic, appropriate management options are reliant on accurate determination of DCIS extent on imaging," the group wrote. "Preoperative breast MRI can provide more sensitive and accurate assessments of DCIS disease extent compared to mammography alone, which theoretically could assist with determining the optimal surgical approach and allow for improved breast-conserving surgery outcomes."

The use of preoperative breast MRI to evaluate the scope of DCIS has been widely debated, according to the researchers. So they investigated the modality's effect on surgical management of pure DCIS diagnosed by core-needle biopsy.

The study included 373 women diagnosed with DCIS via core-needle biopsy between January 2004 and December 2013. The women did not have prior breast cancer, and all underwent surgery within 180 days of diagnosis. Lam's team compared patient features, number of core-needle biopsies and surgeries, and successful breast-conserving surgery rate between two cohorts: a group of 332 women who had preoperative breast MRI and a group of 41 women who did not. The researchers noted no clinical differences between the two groups.

The preoperative MRI group had higher additional core-needle biopsy rates (30% compared with 7%, $p = 0.002$) but fewer total surgeries, the researchers found. Women who had preoperative breast MRI also had a greater success rate for breast-conserving surgery.

Surgical outcomes of women who did and did not have preoperative breast MRI			
Measure	Women who underwent preoperative breast MRI	Women who did not undergo preoperative breast MRI	p-value
Total number of surgeries per woman	1.2	1.5	< 0.001

Total number of surgeries overall	1.3	1.7	< 0.001
More than 1 surgery	15.1%	39%	< 0.001
Successful breast-conserving surgery	89.4%	75%	0.058
Single breast-conserving surgery	77%	42.9%	< 0.001

The results suggest that preoperative breast MRI can improve treatment planning and also surgical outcomes in women diagnosed with DCIS, according to Lam and colleagues.

"Preoperative breast MRI may improve the surgical management of DCIS at an academic institution that routinely performs [it] for new breast cancer diagnoses, leading to higher success rates of first breast-conserving surgery and lower reexcision rates, without causing a rise in mastectomies or delays in surgical treatment," the group wrote. "Further studies are needed to understand the impact of preoperative breast MRI on both short- and long-term outcomes across a variety of practice types."

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