



Case Report

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# Breast Cancer Screening: Why Not Do it Even During Pregnancy?

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## Introduction

The incidence of malignant breast cancer in pregnancy is estimated to be one in 1000/3000 pregnancies; it is superior to that of other diseases and malformations towards which some screening tests recommended in pregnancy are addressed.

## Materials and Methods

The main senological and obstetric-gynecological guidelines, currently used in Italy, in Europe and in USA, were examined.

## Result

In none of the guidelines examined is the need for tests for the early diagnosis of breast cancer in pregnant women indicated. Only in the AIOM guidelines is the problem of the diagnostic delay of breast cancer in pregnancy.

## Discussion

Breast cancer in pregnant women has important medical and social implications. It is often diagnosed with a delay of 3-6 months, resulting in a worse impact on prognosis. The execution of screening and early diagnosis tests, such as breast examination, breast ultrasound, and any mammogram and biopsy, should they prove necessary, are not considered dangerous and are neither contraindicated for the pregnant woman nor for the fetus.

## Conclusion

In consideration of the frequency of breast cancer during pregnancy and its serious consequences, we believe it is

appropriate to include in the guidelines the indication for routine breast monitoring consisting of a breast examination and breast ultrasound, to be carried out in the first trimester, when the breast is still relatively investigable.

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