



ASSOCIATION OF
BREAST PATHOLOGY

How has COVID-19 changed pathology?

Rahul Deb



My experience was.....

- Good!



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Derby – Burton Unit guidelines..

12/03/20

Derby Burton Breast Service

Escalation Plan: Breast Cancer Management during the COVID19 Pandemic

Operative Specimens (I)

NO specimen to be sent fresh

WLEs to be sent in formalin and will be prepared the following day.

Mastectomy specimen - surgeon to make 1 or 2 parallel incision from the posterior aspect (to make sure it goes through the tumour), not cutting through skin, putting blue paper (hand towel) in cut and then place the whole specimen in formalin and will be prepared the following day. Leaving them not incised means we lose tumour features etc permanently.



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ABP guidelines.. 20/03/20

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL associationofbreastpathology.com. The page header includes the ABP logo and the text 'ASSOCIATION OF BREAST PATHOLOGY'. A navigation menu contains links for 'About', 'News', 'Conference 2020', 'Resources', 'Forum', 'Members', and 'Join or contact us'. A prominent pink banner displays the text 'COVID-19: GUIDANCE FOR BREAST PATHOLOGY STAFF'. Below this is a large image of breast tissue with the heading 'About the Association'. The main content area contains three paragraphs of text describing the association's objectives, its founding by Dr. Rahul Deb, and the range of services it provides.

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[COVID-19: GUIDANCE FOR BREAST PATHOLOGY STAFF](#)

About the Association

The objectives of the Association are to promote the study of the pathology of breast diseases, to advance the knowledge and practice of breast pathology and improve the accuracy and consistency of breast lesion diagnosis. It aims to be a major voice of breast pathology in the UK.

The association was founded due to the vision and drive of Dr Rahul Deb. He conducted a nationwide survey of breast pathologists which confirmed a need for an association that would provide support and guidance for breast pathologists and those who work with them. The ABP has since hosted two successful conferences for its members, who provide breast pathology services in a range of settings.

We cater for everyone - general pathologists in DGH laboratories, monospecialists, screening, symptomatic-only, biomedical scientists and trainees.

**ABP 3rd Annual meeting, Oct 2020;
Webinar**



Surgeons!!

Subject: Breast slicing

Dear XXXX

Further to our telephone conversation a couple of weeks ago regarding the protocol for breast slicing, we have noticed that Mr XXXXX in particular has been slicing mastectomy specimens from the anterior aspect.

Just to confirm, the slicing should be done from the posterior aspect up to the skin.

I have also attached a written copy of the full procedure for reference.

1. Place the mastectomy "skin side down" (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Mastectomy placed "skin side down"



Figure 2. Mastectomy sliced sagittally from the posterior aspect

see Figure 3).



Figure 3. Blue roll placed between sagittal mastectomy slices.

Its been fine since! 😊



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Remote working/Home working



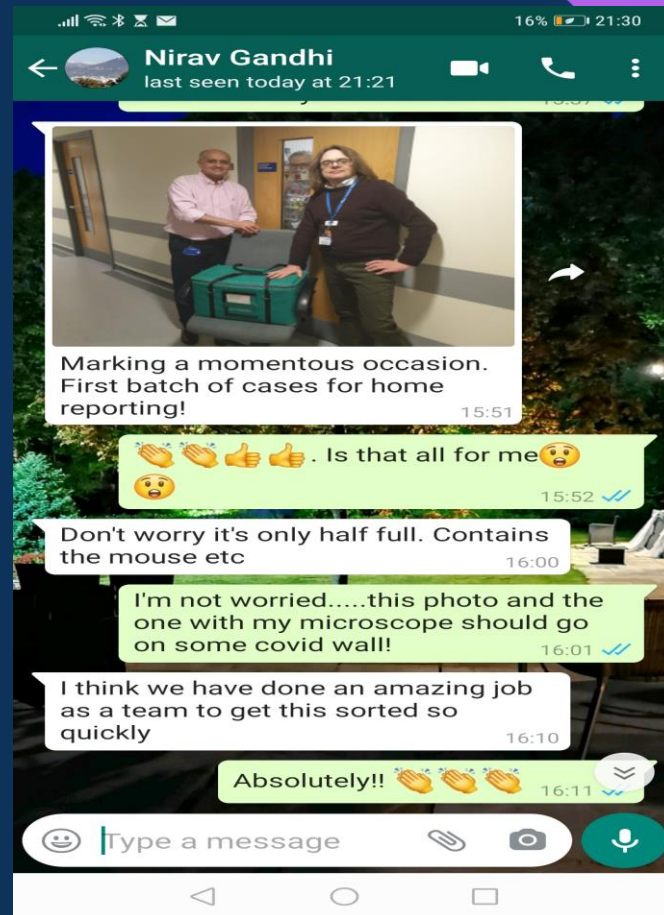
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- Team of 4 breast pathologists
- Other 3 couldn't be at work (2 were off-sick and 1 for personal circumstances)
- I was isolating as a family member developed symptoms (but I was well)



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Within 24 hours.....





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Going ahead...

- Developed a formal home working protocol... available to all colleagues- sets template for digital pathology.
- MDT room is being revamped to take in to account the “new normal” with a kit/software upgrade
- We have shown we can be quite nimble when required....



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Polling...



Survey

- Abeer Shaaban (along with the NCCBP (Big 18) & ABP,) is leading on a survey to know your experiences during covid. Link will be sent after this meeting.
- Please participate