

Dear Colleagues,

The aim of lumpectomy and post-operative irradiation for selected patient with early breast cancer is preservation of the breast while ensuring no increase in the local recurrence rate compared with total mastectomy. Post-operative external beam irradiation is widely available within South Africa. THE SASCRO Committee has been approached by its members to comment on orthovoltage Intra operative radiotherapy (IORT) for breast cancer.

A designated workgroup reviewed the literature and International guidelines on IORT and reported back to the Committee - both its private practice and academic sectors.

The Committee is concerned about the risk of an increase in local recurrences with IORT compared with external beam irradiation.

The SASCRO Committee recommends that the use of lumpectomy and IORT be confined to clinical studies.

This approach aligns with the major guidelines in Oncology such as Up-to-date, ASTRO, NCCN, and NICE.

A more detailed statement is on the SASCRO website and may be downloaded on its Reference webpage, tab policies: <http://sascro.co.za/downloads.html>

The statement may be directly accessed at:

<http://sascro.co.za/downloads/SASCRO%20statement%20on%20IORT%20-%20Feb%20%202018.pdf>

The SASCRO Committee will review new data and International Guidelines on IORT with an open mind. This will be reviewed in the first quarter of each year and when new data becomes available.

Yours Sincerely,

Raymond Abratt

SASCRO Chair on behalf of the SASCRO Executive Committee.