

Identifying Cancer in a Woman with a Breast Implant Following Prior Mastectomy for Breast Cancer

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Abstract

Breast implants are associated with an increased risk of developing inflammatory reactions - both within the breast and systemically - as well as cancer. It is not uncommon for women who have undergone mastectomy or partial mastectomy for the removal of a prior cancer, to undergo breast implants. Measurement of regional blood flow (RBF) and metabolic differences using FMTVDM* differentiate tissue types and can be used in women with dense breasts and breast implants - including those with prior surgical intervention for the treatment of breast cancer - to determine if inflammation, precancerous changes or breast cancer is present. We present once such case - evaluated by FMTVDM* - of a woman with breast implants placed after prior surgery for breast cancer.

Keywords: FMTVDM; Breast Cancer; Mastectomy; Breast Implant

Introduction

The risk of inflammatory changes, potential autoimmune diseases and breast cancer in women with breast implants is now well recognized [1-6]. Given the prevalence of breast implants and the likelihood that breast implants will not become a thing of the past, it is important that clinicians be able to monitor the overall health of the women and men with breast implants by measuring changes in breast health [7-9] on a Health-Spectrum as shown in figure 1. One of the common reasons for breast implants are among women who have previously undergone surgical removal of part or all of a breast for the treatment of breast cancer. Such women must be closely monitored for possible recurrence or the development of a new secondary cancer.

We present a case of a woman with both dense breast and breast implants that noticed breast irregularities and requested further measurement of metabolic and regional blood flow (RBF) differences using FMTVDM.

Patient study**

Following standardized preparation and introduction to the nuclear imaging laboratory, and following the signing of informed consent per laboratory protocol, a middle aged Caucasian woman

Figure 1: Progression or regression of health across a health-spectrum is a measurable continuum of transitional changes occurring over time resulting from the interaction of the specific person's cellular genetic composition and the environmental influences impacting specific cells and tissue [9].

presented for evaluation using FMTVDM [7-9]. She had previously undergone partial mastectomy of the left breast for cancer and had not noted any breast irregularities. She had never smoked nor previously taken hormone therapy.

The result of her FMTVDM is shown in Figure 2, where several regions of interest (ROIs) are presented along with FMTVDM measurements for regional blood flow (RBF) and metabolism. The majority of the FMTVDM counts are within the expected range for normal breast tissue; however, in the upper breast tissue were two regions that turned out to be breast cancer with values of 386 and 396 [7-9].

Figure 2: FMTVDM results for a woman with cancerous breast tissue following prior mastectomy and breast implant.

Discussion

Recurrence of breast cancer is a constant concern both for the patient and the clinician following the patient. The introduction of a breast implant complicates the ability to find recurrent or new cancers, while at the same time, the implant itself may result in inflammatory or cancerous changes that need to be considered.

Measurement of RBF and metabolic changes allow measurements in women, and men, who have undergone mastectomy, breast implants, have dense or normal breast tissue. By making such measurements, new and recurrent breast cancers can be found without the limitations of mammography.

Conclusion

FMTVDM provides the only diagnostic tool, which can measure changes in RBF and metabolic differences. Such measurements can differentiate tissue even when prior surgical intervention has complicated the appearance of the breast tissue – including mastectomy and breast implants.

*FMTVDM = The Fleming Method for Tissue and Vascular Differentiation and Metabolism.

** FMTVDM provided to patient following standard laboratory explanation and signing of informed consent.

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