TITLE: Turnaround Times for Breast Cancer Pathology Reports: Clinical Outcomes and Guidelines

DATE: 24 August 2010

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What effect do delayed breast biopsy and surgical specimen pathology reports have on patient outcomes?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding turnaround time for breast biopsy and surgical specimen pathology reports?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 8, 2010), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI (Health Devices Gold), EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between January 1, 2005, and August 19, 2010. For question 1, filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, and non-randomized studies. For the second question, filters were applied to limit the retrieval to guidelines. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, economic and evidence-based guidelines.

One evidence-based guideline was identified pertaining to the turnaround time for breast biopsy and surgical specimen pathology reports. No relevant health technology assessment reports,
systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified. Additional information that may be of interest is included in the appendix.

**Health technology assessments**
No literature identified.

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**
No literature identified.

**Randomized controlled trials**
No literature identified.

**Non-randomized studies**
No literature identified.

**Guidelines and recommendations**

   
   See section 2.2.2 Effect of delays from diagnosis to treatment

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Non-randomized studies


Additional references

3. The time it takes: breast cancer care in Saskatchewan [Internet]. Saskatoon (SK): Health Quality Council; 2006. [cited 2010 Aug 19]. Available from: http://www.hqc.sk.ca/download.jsp?P9fv+Ms14Fe+fV2VxixGkBtizBf0QflQkUwK4QBZaJusgghMEI1YSg==