

Recent roles of vacuum assisted breast biopsy in Korea

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The usefulness of vacuum assisted breast biopsy(VABB) for the accurate diagnosis of breast lesions has been well established over the past twenty years after this procedure was first introduced to Korean hospital in 2000. VABB has successfully overcome the shortcomings of core needle biopsy(CNBX) such as underestimation of the target lesion particularly in heterogeneous and dense breast. Besides diagnostic purpose, VABB have replaced the preexisting surgical excision for the treatment of benign breast masses.

VABB now can be done guided by ultrasonography, mammography or MRI. Most of the procedures are performed by hand-handled ultrasonography in our country and a certain cases like microcalcification and non-palpable lesions not visible on sonography are under mammography based stereotactic method. While CNBX is still providing a reliable results for the diagnosis of breast lesions but when the biopsy results are indeterminate that is B3 lesion or discordant in imaging-pathology correlation, VABB is a good alternative to open surgical excision to get an accurate diagnosis.

The frequency of detection of breast lesions is continuously increasing as the growing number of screening sonography across the country. Nearly 60 percent of women in Korea have breast lesions and higher rate of young breast cancer is reported than western countries. If missed diagnosis happened in this young patients it would be great shock to both patient and doctor and the cancer might be rapidly progressing one. With the medical consumers now demand more cosmetic and accurate diagnosis VABB could be a useful technique to meet this.