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Knowledge gaps in oncoplastic surgery

Florian Fitzal, M.D., MBA, F.E.B.S. Fellow of the European Board of Surgery (Oncology)
Chief, Surgical Breast Unit, Department of Surgery,
Deputy Chief, Breast Health Center,
Medical University Vienna and Cancer Comprehensive Center,
General Hospital Vienna, Austria

In Europe the Oncoplastic Breast Consortium built a group including more than 500 breast centers worldwide. The leader, Prof Walter Paul Weber, together with the second chair of the consortium Prof Jörg Heil initiated a consensus conference regarding knowledge gaps in oncoplastic surgery. This initiative were to identify important knowledge gaps in the field of oncoplastic breast-conserving surgery and nipple-sparing or skin-sparing mastectomy with immediate breast reconstruction, and to recommend appropriate research strategies to address these gaps. A total of 212 surgeons and 26 patient advocates from 55 countries analysed and ranked the 15 most important knowledge gaps from a list of 38 in two electronic Delphi rounds. An interdisciplinary panel of the Oncoplastic Breast Consortium consisting of 63 stakeholders from 20 countries obtained consensus during an in-person meeting to select seven of these 15 knowledge gaps as research priorities. The following key recommendations emerged from this meeting. The effect of oncoplastic breast-conserving surgery on quality of life, the optimal type and timing of reconstruction after nipple-sparing or skin-sparing mastectomy with planned radiotherapy, the role of adjunctive mesh and the positioning of implants during implant-based breast reconstruction and the BREAST-Q questionnaire is a suitable tool to assess primary outcomes in these studies.