

# DOMINICAN HOSPITAL Quality Improvement Study 2016

Study coordinator: Michael Alexander, MD

Study population: DCIS diagnosed and treated at Dominican Hospital in 2015

Total number: 17 cases

## **PROBLEM IDENTIFIED/SUMMARY:**

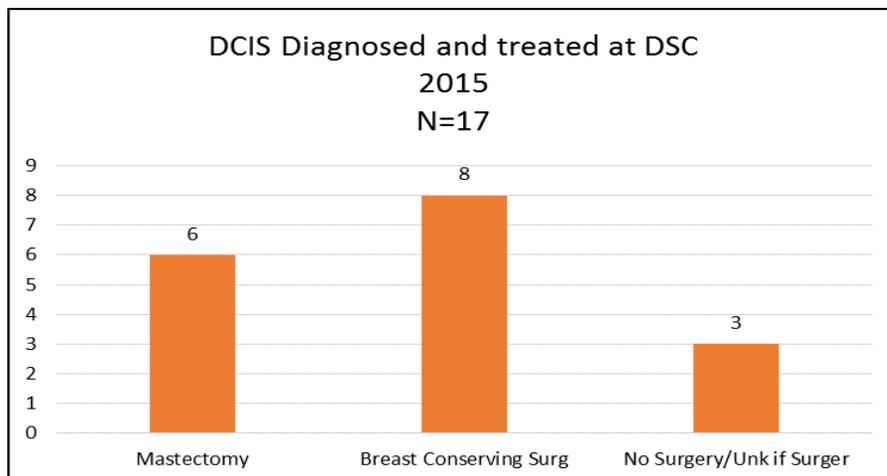
It came to the attention of the quality department that unnecessary SLN biopsies were being performed on DCIS patients undergoing breast conservation therapy.

## **CRITERIA USED TO STUDY PROBLEM:**

17 patient charts were extensively reviewed to determine the type of surgery done and whether SLN biopsy was performed and why.

## **FINDINGS:**

Out of 17 patients, 6 patients underwent mastectomy (of note, all patients had legitimate reasons why breast conserving therapy was not offered). All 6 patients had SLN biopsy performed. 8 patients had breast conserving surgery in which 1 patient had a SLN biopsy. 3 patients did not have surgery documented in the patient record. These patients have migrated out of the Dignity Health network and attempts at contacting outside physicians were unsuccessful. For the purpose of this study we have excluded these 3 patients.



## **NATIONAL BENCHMARKS USED:**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4837213/>

The current NCCN guidelines recommend sentinel node being "strongly considered for DCIS treated with mastectomy or with an excision in an anatomic location compromising the performance of a future sentinel node procedure".

**OUTCOME/DISCUSSION:**

Although there was concern that SLN biopsy was being performed unnecessarily, we found that almost 100% of DCIS patients are being treated according to guidelines. Evidence of physician discussion with patients about treatment guidelines and recommendations were evident in patient records.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Findings of this study will be formally communicated to the surgical staff and Administration.

**PLAN TO MONITOR FOLLOW UP:**

Continue to consider clinical and biopsy pathologic features to make recommendations for sentinel lymph node biopsy for appropriate patients. Overall, however, appropriate surgical management of patients is being performed, and the recommendation comes forward to monitor SLN biopsy at intervals to assure ongoing alignment with NCCN guidelines.

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