

In the Name of God

*Breast Lumps in
Pregnancy and
Lactation*

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Case 1

★ 22 y old woman, G1

✦ 32 w pregnant

▲ Mass in LB

▲ Questions?

▲ FH –

▲ Previous round mobile mass in RB

▲ Newly enlarged

▲ mobile, non-tender

★ Plans?

Case 1, 22 y, 32 w, newly enlarged mobile non-tender mass



- ★ US: 2.3 cm, solid, round, circumscribed, typical of FA
- ◆ Next plan?



Case 2

- ★ 33 y old, G2L1
 - ✦ 12 w pregnant
 - ▲ mass in UOQ of LB
- ★ Questions?
 - ✦ Firm, fixed mass
 - ▲ Around 2 cm
 - ✦ One firm fixed axillary LAP
- ★ Plans?



Case 2, 33 y, 12w, 2 cm fix mass, fix LAP

- ★ US: 21 mm, solid, irregular border
 - ✦ Suspicious axillary LAP
 - ▲ BIRADS 5
- ★ Mammography?
 - ✦ Spiculated mass in LB
 - ✦ Suspicious microcalcification in RB
- ★ Next plan?

For breast lumps in pregnant or BF women



Three major concerns

Appropriate diagnostic steps?

- Accuracy

- No harm to mother and fetus

What are the most probable diagnoses?

- Any difference with women in general?

How to treat?

- No harm to mother and fetus



Triple Assessment

*In general
women, how do
we approach a
mass in the
breast?*

Appropriate diagnostic steps?

Triple Assessment

**Reliable
Diagnosis
in >99%**

Triple Assessment

Reliable
Diagnosis
in >99%

Clinical

History

Exam

Imaging

US

Mammo

In BF?

In Pv?

Pathology

FNA

CNB



What are the important points in self-history?



- ★ New in Py/BF?
- ★ Increase in size in Py/BF?
- ★ Associated symptoms?
 - ✦ Nipple discharge?...bloody?

May be physiologic in Py

If no clinical or paraclinical finding

When with mass: considered pathologic



What are the important points in the past/family history?

- ★ History of
 - ✦ Breast/Ovarian/Other cancer
 - ✦ Chest radiation therapy
- ★ Family history of
 - ✦ breast or ovarian cancer



In examination: On which points should we focus in inspection ?

- ★ Retraction over the mass
- ★ Retraction of nipple
- ★ Skin changes

✦ Erythema

✦ Edema

✦ Dimpling

#May be physiologic in Py
-If no clinical or
paraclinical finding



In exam: On which points should we focus in palpation?

- ★ Size/border/mobility/consistency
- ★ Tenderness
- ★ Nipple retraction or excoriation
- ★ Pathologic nipple discharge

Frequent in Py

- May be physiologic in Py
- When with mass: considered pathologic

Triple Assessment

Clinical

History

Exam

Imaging

US

Mammo

Pathology

FNA

CNB

Ultrasonography



★ First-line imaging in Py/BF

✦ Due to safety, and useful information

- When doctor is uncertain: US can confirm there is no lump, just NL breast tissue

- Diagnoses simple cystic lesions

- Investigates solid and atypical cystic lesions

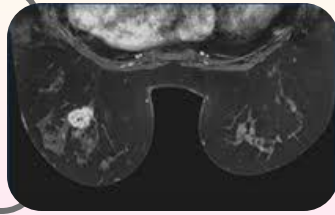
- Gives precise description and Bi-Rads classification

Mammography



- ★ Not performed when unnecessary
- ★ But done if persistent doubt after US
- ✦ often helpful and not dangerous
 - ▲ If BC detected in CNB in Py/BF, bilateral mammo is necessary

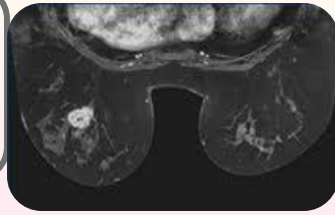
MRI in Py



- ★ Gadolinium must be avoided
 - ✦ enters fetal blood, although adverse effects reported only in animal studies
 - ✦ Heating can affect cell migration in T1
 - ✦ Noise may harm fetal hearing (~24 w)
- ★ MRI without Gad. may be OK, but not helpful
 - ▲ New studies about MRI without Gad

A. Langer

MRI in BF



★ Can be performed during BF

✦ Main indication: diagnosed BC

▲ BC extension maybe underestimated

✦ Little Gad. excreted in milk

▲ Absorbed by infant

✦ no reported cases of direct toxicity

× 12- 24 h BF pause preferable A. Langer.

Triple Assessment

Clinical

History

Exam

Imaging

US

Mammo

Pathology

FNA

CNB



FNA in Py/BF- 1

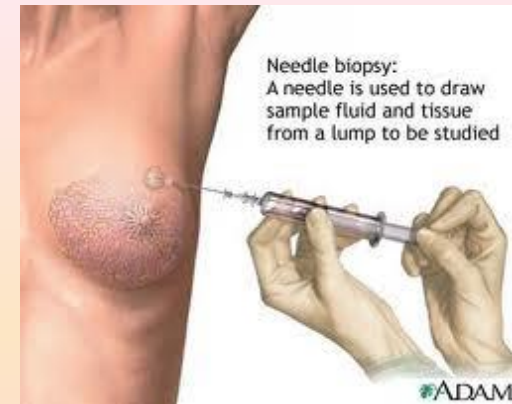
- ★ May confuse LAs with BC, or LCIS (Finley-1989)
- ★ May confuse BC with cell changes of pregnancy (Novotny 1991)
- ★ FNA as useful as in nonPy, nonBF if team approach (clinician-cytopathologist) (Gupta,1993)
- ★ Can result in false-positive diagnosis of cancer (Pruthi, 2001)
- ★ “Breast lesions that are difficult to classify in FNA= Grey zone lesions”, including pregnant and lactating breasts (Mitra 2015)



FNA in Py/BF- 2



- ★ Provides cell for cytology
- ✦ Not DD in situ from invasive disease
- ★ Mostly adequate for
 - ✦ DD cysts from solid
 - ✦ Assessment of lymph nodes
- ★ Pathologist must know that the patient is pregnant/BF



CNB in Py/BF- 1 (Pruthi, 2001; Yu, 2013; Beyer 2015)



★ Higher rate of complications than general women

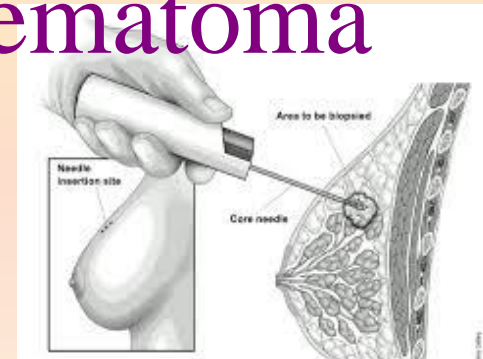
✦ increased risk of bleeding/hematoma

✦ increased risk of infection

✦ risk of milk fistula

▲ occurs more in central than in peripheral cuts

✦ May not heal till ending BF



CNB in Py/BF - 2



- ★ Still best method of tissue diagnosis in Py and BF
- ✦ yields very appropriate tissue
 - ▲ suitable for histologic assessment
 - ▲ suitable for IHC
- ✦ safe and cost-effective





Vacuum-assisted biopsy (VAB)

- ★ Like CNB, but larger needle
- ✦ Attached to a vacuum system
- ★ In small lesions
- ✦ Can excise whole lesion if small



Summary of approach to breast lumps

(Hogge1999; Beyer 2015; Langer2015)



Breast lump in Py/BF

Hx and CBE

US

B2

B3

B4

B5

ok

consider mammo

mammo and CNB

B3

F/U by CBE and US



For breast lumps in pregnant or BF women



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-Any difference with women in general?

How to treat? -To be effective

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Types of breast lumps in Py/BF

- ★ 30% of breast masses: unique to Py
 - ✦ Lactating adenomas (LA), galactocele, lactational mastitis, infarcts
- ★ Many pre-existing breast lumps
 - ✦ May grow/ enlarge during Py
 - ▲ Commonly FA, cysts

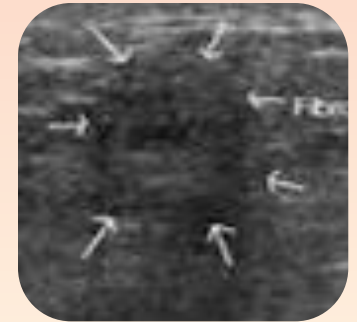
Sorosky, 1998

D. Kulkarni

Fibroadenoma



- ★ Most frequently observed tumor during Py
- ★ US: benign (oval, parallel, hypoechoic homogeneous, well-delimited)
- ★ Hormone sensitive, may grow, bleed and become ischemic in Py/BF
- ✦ Becomes ambiguous (B4)
 - ▲ require CNB to rule out BCa
- ★ Regresses in size after pregnancy



A. Langer; D. Kulkarni



Lactating Adenomas

★ Most common breast lump in Py/BF

✦ Usually in youngers

▲ Subtype of fibroadenoma, usually benign

★ Commonly measured 1-3 cm

★ US: solid, regular shape, parallel, B3

✦ Sometimes misleading: microlobulated or poorly-defined borders

▲ CNB needed



Novotny, 1991; Heymann, 2015; A. Langer; K. McGuire

Galactoceleles



- ★ Most common benign breast lesion in BF
 - ✦ At any time during T3, BF, or at weaning
- ★ Milk-filled cysts, result of obstructed duct
 - ✦ 1- 6 cm, small, tender lump
- ★ US: round or oval, well-delimited, uni- or multi-loculated, thin walled
 - ✦ CBE and US usually sufficient
 - ▲ If in doubt, FNA : brings milky fluid
 - ▲ Usually do not re-fill after aspiration





Breast infarction

★ Occasionally: necrosis and bleeding during Py and BF

✦ in hypertrophic breast tissue or

✦ in a pre-existing mass as FA, LA, hamartoma

★ Presentation

✦ painful mass

✦ US: solid and heterogeneous (B4), may LAP

▲ DD: BCa

▲ CNB required



Gestational BC- 1

- ★ =BC diagnosed during Py or BF or up to 1y post-partum
 - ✦ Incidence: 17.5 to 39.9 per 100,000 births
 - ▲ but much lower during Py (3.0 to 7.7)
 - ▲ than during post-partum (13.8 to 32.2)
- ★ 4% of BC < 45y are diagnosed during Py/BF
- ★ Incidence is increasing in many populations
 - ✦ Probably due to higher maternal age at birth

Gestational BC- 2



★ Delay in diagnosis frequent

✦ Due to

▲ lack of awareness by patient and doctor

▲ fear of mammography

▲ the wish to be reassuring

★ It is essential to avoid delay in diagnosis

✦ “Let’s wait until delivery” must not be accepted

A Langer

Gestational BC- 3



*All masses
without specific diagnoses
should be evaluated with US
and all suspicious masses
should be biopsied
without delay*

Gestational BC- 4



- ★ Generally present with a large palpable mass
- ★ US: typical Bi-Rads 5 lesion
 - ✦ heterogeneous solid mass with irregular borders, vertical axis and acoustic shadowing
 - ▲ But not always that typical
 - ✦ falsely reassuring appearance can be misleading



Gestational BC- 5

★ Whenever microlobulated and/or irregular borders in US

✦ Categorized as B4

▲ Mammography

▲ CNB

▲ In high-risk patients, esp. BRCA1+, BC often has pseudo-benign appearance

A Langer

For breast lumps in pregnant or BF women



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What are the most probable diagnoses?

-Any difference with women in general?

How to treat? -To be effective

-No harm to mother and fetus



Treatment of breast lumps in Py/BF

- ★ Not necessary to excise biopsy-proven benign lumps during Py/BF
 - ✦ Surgery should be avoided. *D. Kulkarni*
- ★ Galactocele, LA, FA, infarcts
 - ✦ If diagnosis made, no treatment needed
 - ▲ except for severe, rapid growth in T1, T2, early T3
 - ✦ May need to re-biopsy/surgery
 - ▲ Late T3:
 - ✦ Wait until delivery
- ★ For BCa: discussed in subsequent pannel

Point



In visits prior to Py: keep a record of pre-existing lumps
It helps with comparison and monitoring during pregnancy and lactation.

D. Kulkarni

Point (Hogge1999)



- ★ Breast changes during Py/BF make CBE extremely difficult
- ★ Thorough CBE at first prenatal visit is essential
- ✦ subsequent CBE will become more difficult as the breast enlarges and becomes more firm and nodular



Case 1, 22 y, 32 w, newly enlarged mobile non-tender mass

- ★ US: 2.3 cm, solid, round, circumscribed, typical of FA
- ✦ Next plan?
 - ▲ If previously diagnosed FA by CNB
 - ✦ Wait till delivery
 - ▲ If not
 - ✦ CNB
 - ▲ What if she were 10 w?
 - ✦ Re-CNB if severe enlargement



Case 2, 33 y, 12w, 2 cm fix mass, fix LAP

- ★ US: 17 mm, solid, irregular border
 - ✦ Suspicious axillary LAP
 - ▲ BIRADS IV
- ★ Mammography:
 - ✦ spiculated mass in LB
 - ✦ Suspicious microcalcification in RB
- ★ Next plan?
 - ✦ CNB/VAB of both lesions

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