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28649 – BREAST MRI IN THE UNIFIED HEALTH SYSTEM (SUS): A THREE-MONTH EXPERIENCE AT THE PORTO ALEGRE CLINICAL HOSPITAL

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Introduction: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the breasts is an important tool for screening and diagnosing breast pathologies, being considered the most sensitive exam for breast cancer, superior to clinical examination, mammography, and ultrasound, with variable specificity. Although the method has great potential, due to its high cost and low availability, it remains an underutilized exam within the Unified Health System (SUS). Thanks to its high spatial resolution, multiplanar capability, and excellent tissue contrast, MRI can be used in the evaluation of various breast conditions. Another benefit of its use is the absence of ionizing radiation exposure to the patient. Its indications are well established, and routine use is not recommended. Current indications include screening in high-risk patients for breast cancer, inconclusive imaging on conventional exams, evaluation of multifocal/multicentric disease, assessment of implants, and post-neoadjuvant chemotherapy evaluation. Among these, screening high-risk populations for the development of breast cancer stands out as the indication with the strongest scientific support. Understanding these indications thoroughly and requesting MRI judiciously and evidence-based is essential for good practice in Mastology. In this study, we analyzed the main indications and the profile of patients who underwent breast MRI at the Porto Alegre Clinical Hospital (HCPA) during a quarter of 2023. **Methodology:** This is a cross-sectional study. The indications and profile of patients who underwent breast MRI between August and November 2023 were analyzed, representing the initial period of implementation of the exam in the Mastology Department at HCPA. **Conclusion:** In summary, there is well-established evidence supporting the use of breast MRI both for screening and diagnosing a variety of breast pathologies. However, this exam remains underutilized in our country due to limited access and lack of awareness about its appropriate indications. It is essential to understand its indications well and request the examination judiciously, as, despite its high sensitivity, the probability of false positives is also increased. In this study, we observed that, consistent with the most current evidence, the main reason for ordering the exam at HCPA's Mastology Department was screening in high-risk populations. Additionally, it is crucial to have a well-trained team of radiologists with expertise in breast imaging for accurate interpretation of the method. Furthermore, expanding and integrating breast MRI into the SUS is of utmost importance to ensure comprehensive and inclusive care for this portion of the population.