



ASO VISUAL ABSTRACT

ASO Visual Abstract: Chyle Leak After Axillary Node Clearance in Breast Cancer Surgery: A Rare Complication and a Proposed Management Strategy from the British and Italian Experience



Arwa Ashoor, MBBS, SBGS, MRBS¹ , Germana Lissidini, MD, PhD², Uttaran Datta, MBBS, MSc¹, Lorenzo Bertoldi, MD², Paolo Veronesi, MD^{2,3}, and Melissa Ley-Hui Tan, MBChB, MED, DIC¹

¹Breast Surgery Department, City Hospital Birmingham, Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, Birmingham, UK; ²Division of Breast Surgery, IEO, European Institute of Oncology, IRCCS, Milan, Italy; ³Department of Oncology and Hemato-Oncology, University of Milan, Milan, Italy

The British and Italian experience in managing chyle leak, a rare complication after breast cancer axillary node clearance was analyzed. Early diagnosis with conservative management can treat chyle leak without compromising

the outcome of oncoplastic and reconstructive breast cancer surgery and its adjuvant treatments (<https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-022-12094-y>).

Chyle Leak After Axillary Node Clearance in Breast Cancer Surgery: A Rare Complication and a Proposed Management Strategy From the British and Italian Experience

<h3>Introduction and Study Aim</h3> <p>Chyle leak after axillary surgery is a rare complication that lacks consensus and management guidelines.</p> <p>This study aimed to present the experiences of two centers in chyle leak management after axillary node clearance for breast cancer.</p>	<h3>Results</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The center in the UK and the center in Italy performed 655 and 4,969 axillary node clearances, respectively.4 patients experienced chyle leaks. All had left-sided surgery (1 had level 2 axillary clearance with therapeutic mammoplasty and 3 had level 3 axillary clearances with mastectomy and implant-based breast reconstructions).All the leaks appeared within 3 days after surgery. Leak duration was between (11 -29) days. The maximum daily output was 600 mL. (Figure.1) .All the leaks were treated conservatively with nutritional team support together with close drainage monitoring.No negative effects on oncoplastic and reconstructive breast surgery wound-healing (Figure.2).No delays in adjuvant treatment were observed.	  <p>Figure 1. Presentation of chyle leak. Figure 2. Post-op photo on day 27 on postoperative day 2.</p>
<h3>Methods</h3> <p>A multicentre case series descriptive analysis of chyle leak after breast cancer axillary node clearance between 1 January 2013 to 31 May 2020.</p>	<h3>Conclusion</h3> <p>The incidence of chyle leak after breast cancer axillary node clearance was 0.07%.</p> <p>Early diagnosis and close monitoring together with conservative management involving nutritional team support can result in successful treatment of chyle leak without negative sequelae of breast cancer oncologic treatment.</p>	

Ashoor A, Lissidini G, Datta U, Bertoldi L, Veronesi P, Hui Tan ML, et al. *Ann Surg Oncol*. Visual Abstract for @AnnSurgOncol

ANNALS OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY