



Guide for Breast and Endocrine Surgery

Mater Pathology proudly supports Breast and Endocrine surgeons in the Queensland community with exceptional and efficient services to assist in patient management.

How does Mater Pathology support Breast and Endocrine surgeons?

We provide comprehensive testing in all areas of pathology to ensure Breast and Endocrine surgeons are extensively serviced.

Our **Anatomical Pathology** department contains an expert team of breast pathologists whom provide an exceptional and uncompromising service for our referring surgeons, physicians, radiologists and breast cancer screening partners. Diagnostic biopsies are carefully scrutinized, often by multiple pathologists to not only provide essential diagnostic information, but also to assist with treatment planning by grading and classifying tumours and performing receptor immunohistochemistry as required.

Accurate reporting of excisional specimens is critical for the ongoing management of patients with breast cancer. To this end we follow international guidelines to ensure optimal fixation, block selection and immunohistochemical staining performance. For patients who have had neo-adjuvant chemotherapy we apply the rigorous Residual Cancer Burden Score (MD Anderson) to establish response, and can facilitate recruitment to clinical trials (such as PENELOPE B).

All of our pathologists are involved in the multidisciplinary care of patients through a number of public and private meetings and are always personally available to field questions from treating doctors. Most also have adjunct academic positions with The University of Queensland and several are actively involved in research to improve on current best practices.

Our focus in breast pathology is on quality. We are a collegiate, academic unit, each involved in the RCPA quality assurance program. Difficult cases are always discussed as a group. We strive to ensure that for any patient's care that we are involved in, we deliver a consistently high level service and can be a reliable and efficient partner for your practice.

Our **Chemical Pathology** department, offers intraoperative PTH testing, together with routine ionised calcium and PTH testing, to support management of parathyroid disorders. The full range of thyroid function testing, including thyroid antibodies, thyroid stimulating immunoglobulins and thyroglobulin for thyroid cancer, is available through Mater Pathology. We also offer breast cancer tumour markers, endocrine testing for adrenal lesions and state of the

art tandem mass spectrometry steroid assays. Additionally, we are the only laboratory in Brisbane to measure PTH 24 hours, 7 days a week. This round the clock measurement optimises and streamlines the post-operative management of thyroidectomy and parathyroidectomy patients.

Microbiology provides support to Breast and Endocrine surgeons through microscopy, culture, antibiotic susceptibility testing and PCR for the diagnosis and investigation of infectious agents in these patients. A unique offering from our Microbiology department is the use of MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry identification technology directly on positive blood culture bottles which provides a more rapid turnaround time for the investigation of sepsis compared to standard blood culture testing (average 24 hour reduction).

Mater Microbiology also uses innovative technology for identification of microbial pathogens ensuring reduced turnaround times for identification of cultured organisms. The use of the Bruker MALDI-TOF MS system, with an extensive database, ensures accurate and rapid identification of organisms including bacteria such as *Corynebacterium kroppenstedtii*, which causes mastitis and recurrent breast abscesses, and is not readily identified by other systems. Mater Pathology's position as part of a tertiary healthcare organisation, has enhanced the Microbiology team's expertise and culture techniques for complex tissue infections.

The **Haematology laboratory** provides expert analysis and interpretation across FBC/blood film morphology, bone marrow investigations, coagulation studies, haemoglobin electrophoresis, flow cytometry and blood banking/transfusion medicine. Mater Haematology offers this extensive range of specialised testing "under one roof", resulting in remarkable turn-around times for clinical haematologists. We employ a new state of the art Sysmex XN FBC analyser enabling the use of novel parameters such as PLT-F (fluorescence platelets) which provides a more accurate platelet count. We assist clinicians in the diagnosis of bleeding tendencies, hyper-coagulable conditions, nutritional deficiencies, haemoglobinopathies and haematologic malignancies.

Our **Blood Bank** is crucial in terms of identification of atypical antibodies and the timely issuing of blood products. Our massive transfusion protocol has been successfully utilised in many cases of clinically significant haemorrhage.





The key points

What makes us different?



Exceptional and uncompromising service

- Diagnostic biopsies often reviewed by multiple pathologists.
- 24/7 measurement of PTH.



Open access and communication

- Regular attendance at MDT meetings by pathologists.
- Pathologists personally available for questions and consultation.



Intraoperative procedures and tests

Intraoperative PTH testing and attendance at Frozen sections are available via bookings for regular referrers.



Experience with tertiary level care

As Mater operates a variety of tertiary level hospitals, we have sought-after experience in highly complex pathology.



24 hour collection services

A 24/7 collection service is available for outpatients at Mater Hospital Brisbane Emergency and Mater Emergency Centre. After 5 pm, patients can visit either of these locations and a phlebotomist will be contacted.



Collaboration

Difficult cases are discussed as a group.



A history of care

Over 98 years of service to Brisbane.



Meet our Pathologists with a special interest in Breast and Endocrine surgery



Dr Cyriac Abraham, *Consultant Haematologist*

☎ 07 3163 2856 ✉ Cyriac.Abraham@mater.org.au

While involved in all areas of general haematopathology, Dr Abraham has a developing interest in diagnostic malignant haematopathology and the underlying molecular basis of haematologic neoplasms.



Dr Bhuvana Srinivasan, *Consultant Anatomical Pathologist*

☎ 07 3163 8617 ✉ Bhuvana.Srinivasan@mater.org.au

Dr Srinivasan has over 20 years of experience in Anatomical Pathology with a special interest in Breast, Urologic, and GI Pathology. She has worked with, Dr S Schnitt and Dr L Collins, world leaders in breast pathology, at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston. She has been a convenor and is now a member of the RCPA Breast QAP committee.



Dr Cameron Snell, *Consultant Anatomical Pathologist*

☎ 07 3163 8016 ✉ Cameron.Snell@mater.org.au

Dr Snell has a particular interest in individualised cancer diagnosis and care. He was awarded the Oxford Nuffield Fellowship in 2010 which allowed him to develop novel diagnostic assays and complete his DPhil in tumour hypoxia. Dr Snell is actively involved in research and teaching and holds appointments with the University of Queensland and Mater Research Institute.

Contact us

Our 24/7 laboratories are situated in the following convenient locations to ensure our community is thoroughly serviced:

- Main Laboratory situated at **Mater's South Brisbane campus**
- Stat Laboratory in **St Vincent's Private Hospital Northside**
- Stat Laboratory in **Mater Private Hospital Springfield**.

myResults

Electronic results are viewable at any time on any device via **myResults**. Visit pathology.mater.org.au to register for **myResults**, view a list of our collection centres and find the latest news about our service.



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