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Roselyne Okello, MD, Timothy B Rooney, MD, Mwajuma Jumbe, MD, Lulu Sakafu, MD, Troy Koch, MD, Fabian Laage-Gaupp, MD, Frank Minja, MD, Mary Chamberlin, MD, Breast Imaging and Image-guided Intervention in Tanzania: Initial Experience Journal of Breast Imaging, Volume 2, Issue 3, May/June 2020, Pages 269–274.

Abstract

Breast imaging capacity in Tanzania is currently very limited. In a country of almost 60 million people, mammographic units are exceedingly rare. The few existing units are compromised by lack of maintenance and quality control and extremely limited technologist training. Breast cancer incidence continues to increase in East Africa, while the ability to accurately diagnose and differentiate benign and malignant breast disease remains a challenge. However, as ultrasound technology improves and becomes more affordable, there is increased access to devices including hand-held point of care ultrasound. Additionally, there has been a recent expansion in the training of academic radiologists in Tanzania, creating an opportunity for possible sustainable improvement of breast imaging and intervention. Our initial efforts at the Muhimbili Academic Medical Center (MAMC) included social media advertising for symptomatic and asymptomatic women, followed by screening (clinical breast exam) and subsequent ultrasound imaging of symptomatic women. We then initiated a workflow for ultrasound-guided breast intervention, performed biopsies, reviewed results by local pathologists, and brought the postbiopsy patients back for radiologic-pathologic correlation, wound assessment, and coordination of follow-up and treatment.