

el Periòdic News

IMPROVEMENTS IN ONCOLOGICAL PROCEDURES

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The press conference explaining the new medical unit headed by the Minister of Health, Helena Mas, and by the specialist in breast surgery, Martín Espinosa.

Comprehensive measure for breast cancer with a pioneering specialized doctor

At a cost of 75,000 euros per year, Health plans to optimize a service that receives 60 patients per year

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ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

A before and after is what marks Monday, January 13th, when our Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell now has a breast pathology unit. That is why the 74 patients who suffer and are currently admitted for this pathology in the Principality will be able to see their surgery and treatment service renewed, as well as their «prevention and comprehensive care», which will

allow in the near future and once the unit is established on the -3 floor of the hospital, to intervene on approximately 80% of its users without the need to move them to neighboring health centers. All of this is part of the “strategic line pursued by the Government and the Ministry of Health not only in this legislature, but since the previous one”, as the head of this portfolio, Helena Mas, specified last Monday.

A project that, as Mas poin-

ted out, will be launched “once the mental health unit located on the aforementioned floor is moved to the Ròdol building, which involves first having the authorizations of the Escaldes Municipality and once the relevant works are awarded”. The new breast pathology unit is expected to be “an inclusive space that operates jointly”, with the addition of a renowned specialist and presented last Monday Dr. Martín Espinosa, a gynecologist and surgeon expert

THE SITUATION OF THE DISEASE

74

These are the number of cases detected in 2024 of people treated for breast cancer in the Principality.

80%

It is the total population value that is estimated to be able to be treated in the country once the breast unit is launched.



Martín Espinosa

GYNECOLOGIST AND EXPERT SURGEON

“At Vall d’Hebron I have treated around 600 patients every year, which has led me to train many young surgeons there”

Santiago Albiol

SAAS ONCOLOGY MANAGER

“If we have managed to reduce and maintain the numbers of breast cancer is due to prevalence and the screening program”

in breast pathology, who, as the head of this unit at the Vall d’Hebron Hospital in Barcelona, has requested a leave of absence as he explained “to join this important transformative project in Andorra”.

Accompanying the two members cited by the general director of the Andorran Health Care Service, Meritxell Cosan, and by the head of the oncolo-

gy unit of the SAAS, Santiago Albiol, they specified that this improvement involves part of the infrastructure and another of the treatment of the disease itself. Regarding the first part, Dr. Albiol explained that this breast pathology unit will be added «the creation of a new day center to reinforce and optimize the treatment of oncological patients, and thus become a safer and more comfortable environment for them». On the other hand, a new outpatient consultation area will also be added for its users and a healthcare model that will allow «to follow and monitor their recovery and condition». It is worth noting that all this will have an annual cost of around 75,000 euros, which is added to that of specialized training for the hospital staff.

Otherwise, as shown in a graph by Dr. Cosan, the strategic line of the SAAS is to improve this pathology, considering that apart from breast cancer, which registers around 60 cases per year in recent periods, other of the most common cancers in the country such as prostate cancer (89) and colon and rectum cancer (84) have also suffered a rise, these “hospital data” being provided this past 2024 and which “have been maintained thanks to the increase in its prevalence and the screening

program”, as Albiol stated. Espinosa, for his part, recalled that during his stay at the Vall d’Hebron Hospital he has treated around 600 patients each year and performed around 120/130 operations, a reason that has led him to train “many young surgeons in Catalonia and to master oncoplastic surgery”; that is, the one that does not mutilate parts of the body.

In addition, the head of the SAAS oncology unit explained the studies and devices that the Ministry of Health is launching with the help and support of other hospitals. In addition to emphasizing that “a study of breast cancer cases is already being carried out in Andorra” and that they are being studied and analyzed by the ethics

committee in charge, Albiol announced that cutting-edge technology from the United States is also being used, whereby patients with this pathology and treated with chemotherapy wear virtual reality glasses to “reduce their anxiety levels with the mental transfer of mindfulness and thus make them enter a calmer and safer environment”, which improves their quality of life and care. Another of the studies referred to by Dr. Albiol was the one that relates the patient’s intestinal microbiota profile to the toxicity of the medications used for their recovery. Similarly, what has happened with external lymphomas and which the SAAS ethics committee is following very closely. ●

The patient will be able to choose whether they want to access the conventional treatment circuit or if they prefer to face the most innovative model

►► The patient will be able to choose whether to access the conventional treatment circuit or if they prefer to face the most innovative model. The specialist in breast surgery (who has begun operating in the country and will be in the operating room every Monday) stressed that he will be the main surgeon to command the new unit accompanied by a reinforcement of staff among which are

radiologists, oncologists and nurses to personalize a circuit in which tests were first performed “that had to be repeated again in the intervention center”. So now it will be possible to avoid a second surgery to be able to treat breast cancer in time and with sufficient equipment. “Each patient will be able to choose whether to undergo the traditional circuit or the one we are now innovating”, he reported.

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