

## MEDIA RELEASE

11 October 2011

### ***RafflesHospital* Unveils Latest Procedure in Managing Breast Abnormalities**

Patients with suspicious cluster of small calcium deposits or lumps in the breast, and those with early stage breast cancer can now benefit from a novel technique that provides superior cosmetic outcome in breast conservation surgery. This technique was introduced to Singapore this year by Dr Felicia Tan Li Sher, Specialist in General Surgery & Consultant, Raffles Surgery Centre, who is also the pioneer of the procedure in the region.

Known as Radioisotope Occult Lesion Localisation (ROLL), this relatively simple yet highly effective technique is a combination of both a radiological and a surgical procedure. ROLL is a useful method for locating the abnormal tissues that will allow the surgeon to perform a quicker and more precise surgical removal, as compared to the current gold standard, hookwire localisation. More importantly, there is minimal discomfort to the patient and is safe for clinical staff with no specific radiological protection needed. Dr Tan has successfully performed this technique on 50 patients since February this year.

“Precise localisation of the abnormal tissues is critical as it allows the surgeon to better plan the skin incision for better cosmetic outcome, as well as optimising the results in breast conservation surgery. ROLL also allows minimal removal of healthy breast tissues while ensuring that the tumour is entirely removed,” says Dr Tan.

An estimated 25% of cancerous breast tumours cannot be physically felt in clinical examination and these are usually early stage breast cancers. These abnormal breast tissues need to be accurately located using mammography and ultra-sonography for a successful surgical treatment. However, traditional methods via hookwire localisation has complications such as inaccurate localisation with up to 30 to 40 per cent miss rate, longer procedure time and cause pain to the patient. There is also potential risk of injuring the lungs during the procedure.

ROLL was invented in Milan in 1996, based on the premise of placing radioactive chemicals within the abnormal breast tissues under clear image guidance. With the use of a gamma probe, the surgeon is able to locate them during the surgery, and based on the location of radioactivity, ensures a smooth and successful surgical removal to be achieved.

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**RafflesMedical** clinics form one of the largest networks of private family medicine centres in Singapore. We also operate a clinic network in Hong Kong and a medical centre in Shanghai.

**RafflesHospital**, the flagship of Raffles Medical Group, is a private tertiary hospital located in the heart of Singapore. We offer a wide range of specialist medical and diagnostic services for both inpatients and outpatients. Representing more than 30 disciplines, our team of specialists constitutes a group practice combining sub-specialty expertise and teamwork to ensure optimal, affordable and high quality care for our patients. We also have representative offices in Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei, Bangladesh and the Russian Far East, as well as associates throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

**RafflesDental** is a team-based dental group in Singapore comprising of a specialist dental practice at Raffles Hospital and a network of general dental clinics.

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