



BSGI in Post-Operative Patients

BSGI is an excellent adjunct imaging modality for following patients with a history of previous breast surgery, especially in cases resulting in radiodense scarring. The sensitivity of this molecular imaging procedure is not compromised by tissue density and is therefore able to detect cancer in cases where scarring has reduced the sensitivity of mammography.

Although the sensitivity of BSGI for local recurrent cancers is high, specificity may be reduced in patients with healing complications such as fat necrosis which result in a chronic or acute inflammatory response. Such healing disorders also complicate the specificity of mammography, ultrasound and MRI. The presence of localized inflammatory response does not influence the sensitivity or specificity of BSGI in areas outside the immediate surgical pathway.

Other post-operative changes, which in a few cases have resulted in focal accumulation of radiotracer, include: reactionary lymph nodes, skin healing complications and inflammatory reactions surrounding deep sutures. Most of these processes are acute and resolve within a few months post surgery.