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| **Appendix S1 – Summary of guidelines** |
|   | **The Netherlands** | **Ireland**  |
| **Local surgery** | BCS: in all patients with T1-2; N0-1 breast cancer  | BCS: unifocal, anticipated acceptable cosmetic result, not occurring in 1st/2nd trimester of pregnancy, possibility to obtain histologically clear margins (5mm), patient preference, no contraindications to RT |
| Mastectomy: patient preferencecontraindications to BCS and/or RT | contraindications to BCS and/or RT |
| **Axillary surgery** | Sentinel node in all patients, except when axillary metastasis is proven, or with a ≥ T2 and/or multicentric primary tumor, or the patient had previous axillary surgery | 2000: SN still investigational, ALND (level I and II or I-III) in all patients 2007: - sonographically normal LN's and cytology not performed/negative: SN- proved LN involvement (by cytology or SN): axillary clearance (levels I and II or I-III) |
| Axillary lymph node dissection after positive SN or in case of contraindications to SN  | 2000: SN still investigational, ALND (level I and II or I-III) in all patients 2007: - sonographically normal LN's and cytology not performed/negative: SN- proved LN involvement (by cytology or SN): axillary clearance (levels I and II or I-III)After BCS |
| **Radiation therapy** | Always after BCS |  |
| After mastectomy: irradical resection, cT4, pT3 and ≥ pN2, involvement of pectoral muscle, or a positive axillary apex | After mastectomy in cases of high risk of local chest wall recurrence (tumor ≤3 mm of pectoral fascia or >4 positive axillary nodes) |
| **Endocrine therapy** | Postmenopausal N+ ER/PR+  | N+, ER/PR+ |
| N0, tumour size ≤ 1 cm: none | N0, tumour size ≤ 1 cm, ER/PR+, grade 1: none or tamoxifen |
| N0 tumour size 1-2 cm, grade 3N0 tumour size 2-3 cm, grade 2-3N0 tumour size ≥ 3 cm. | N0, tumour size ≥ 1 cm, ER/PR+, grade > 1 |
| **Chemotherapy** | Premenopausal N+ | All N0 ER/PR+ patients except "elderly": tumour size >1cm, all grades (before endocrine therapy)  |
| Postmenopausal, age<70 N+ ER/PR-; | All N+ ER/PR- patients  |
| Postmenopausal, age<60 N+ ER/PR+ in addition to endocrine therapy | Elderly: N+ and ER/PR- or tumour size>2 cm/grade 2/3 and any N-status |
| Postmenopausal, age<70 N+ ER/PR+, in addition to endocrine therapy when patient is motivated and fit, and prognosis is bad (i.e. ≥4 positive nodes) |   |