

6TH WORLD FORUM ON BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER



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Beyond the image frame: How Italian High Renaissance Paintings Can be Used to Teach Medical Students to Interpret Patient Symptoms?

In breast cancer, the second common cancer in women worldwide, the accurate interpretation of visual information is critically important in the era of “time poverty”, given that diagnosis primarily relies on visual stimuli interpreted by the examiner. The “ARSA Think Tank Meeting” (ARSATTM) on the art of medical diagnosis of breast cancer, endorsed by the Arthur Schopenhauer Research Academy (ARSA) and the Senological Gynecology Working Group (SGWG), and conducted under the auspices of Senological Section of Polish Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, represents the first academic session dedicated to slow education and sign interpretation leading to breast cancer diagnosis in young female patients. During the meeting, these topics were discussed in different groups of medical students - three Polish-speaking and one English-speaking, including participants from non-medical fields in some groups. At the meeting, two of the student groups received a methodological introduction to the typology of signs in a Renaissance painting, while the other two did not. Subsequently, all four groups were assigned tasks to draw contemporary young breast cancer patients and to interpret ultrasound images. Finally, the students met real patients and performed breast ultrasound examinations under the guidance of a teacher. Herein, we present how medical students transform signs into meanings, both with and without methodological preparation, and offer recommendations for educating medical students, particularly in breast ultrasound for patients with symptoms suggestive of breast pathology. Adhering to the principle of “Beyond the frame”, medical students have the opportunity to recognize the significance of deliberate and thoughtful reflection, despite the constraints imposed by time poverty.

Keywords

breast cancer, senology, slow education, diagnosis, Renaissance paintings, interpretation, symptoms, time poverty

Biography

Marcin Śniadecki, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, specialist in gynecology and obstetrics, senologist, with special interest in gynecological oncology, early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer patients, ultrasound and art in medicine. Author of numerous studies regarding prophylaxis and diagnosis of gynecological and breast cancers. He is a member of EORTC (Breast Cancer Group) and the Management Board of the Polish Senological Section of Polish Society of Gynecological Oncology. He is a supporter of value-based healthcare and slow medicine philosophy.