Study of the nipple-areolar complex through magnetic resonance imaging with microcoils

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Purpose: To evaluate the use of MRI with microcoils in the study of the nipple-areolar complex and its importance in the exam algorithm, in cases of clinically significant discharge.

Patients and method: Descriptive study of a group of patients with single-pore nipple discharge using commercially available microcoils, with and without contrast, in a magnetic resounder. Tridimensional reconstruction of findings, with the very high resolution provided by microcoils, was shared with the surgeon, and surgical resections were analyzed with the pathologist when indicated, within the period from November 2013 and March 2015.

Results: 25 patients were observed. In 15 of them, benign lesions were found (6 central papillomas, 4 galactoceles, 2 papilary proliferations without atypia, 1 cystic mastopathy,1 abscess, and 1 fibroadenoma). In 9 patients (36%), carcinomas were found, mostly with micropapilar and cribiform patterns whose Volumen Render reconstructions presented as "sponge/corals".

Conclusions: The method looks simple and effective, and could be used as a first line indication for the treatment of thelorrhagia and in the global study of the nipple-areolar complex.