



## Introduction

Breast Implant-Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL) is an extremely rare form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma recently recognized by the WHO as a provisional entity classified in the group of peripheral T cell lymphomas to which anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) belongs.

Among women with breast implants, the absolute risk of developing BIA-ALCL is extremely low but significantly higher than that of primary ALCL of the breast in the general population. This was illustrated by a Dutch study in approximately 9 million women which reported an 18-fold higher rate of ALCL arising in the breast among women with breast implants compared with women who did not have implants.

The pathogenesis and risk factors of BIA-ALCL that can appear for either cosmetic or reconstructive indications are still unknown. BIA-ALCL is fortunately a highly curable disease because most cases are following an indolent course and can be managed by surgery alone (cf advisory report of the Superior Health Council no. 9473).

### 1. Notification to the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (AFMPS/FAGG)

In Belgium, **all cases of BIA-ALCL should be notified to the AFMPS/FAGG** [https://www.afmps.be/fr/professionnel\\_de\\_la\\_sante](https://www.afmps.be/fr/professionnel_de_la_sante)

### 2. Registration at the Belgian Cancer Registry (BCR)

All cases of cancer in Belgium have to be registered. **BIA-ALCL should be registered at the BCR** with the following codes in order to be easily identified :

- Diagnostic code (ALCL ALK negative): 9715/3 (this new 2017 WHO code will be activated soon, meanwhile use the 9712/3 code with “9715/3” in comment).

- Localisation code (Breast even if there is a skin involvement) : C50.x.

More information on the BCR website : <https://kankerregister.org/media/docs/downloads/zorgprogramma/Hemato/CodeshematoWHO2017Malignancies.pdf>

### 3. Belgian BIA-ALCL cohort study

The incidence and prevalence of this lymphoma in Belgium is actually not very well known. A Belgian Task force, including the BHS lymphoma committee, the BCR and the AFMPS/FAGG, was recently constituted to elaborate a **national cohort study of BIA-ALCL**, in close collaboration with the French BIA-ALCL registry of the LYSA. A full protocol with patient information sheet and informed consent was elaborated with the purpose to collect both retrospective and prospective data on Belgian patients.

#### ➤ Your collaboration

**We are actually collecting cases for the retrospective and prospective cohort study** and if you receive this letter, it is because you are possibly managing a BIA-ALCL case. If this is indeed the case and if you agree to collaborate with this national study, **please contact [marc.andre@uclouvain.be](mailto:marc.andre@uclouvain.be)**

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