

Supplementary Table 1. Diagnostic performance of the number of suspicious LNs on axillary US in predicting a heavy nodal burden

Diagnostic value	Heavy nodal burden (3 or more)		
	1 suspicious LN on US	2 suspicious LNs on US	3 or more suspicious LNs on US
Sensitivity	37/81 (45.7)	24/81 (29.6)	20/81 (24.7)
Specificity	72/323 (22.3)	285/323 (88.2)	315/323 (97.5)
PPV	37/314 (11.8)	24/62 (38.7)	20/28 (71.4)
NPV	46/90 (51.1)	285/342 (83.3)	315/376 (83.8)
Accuracy	83/404 (20.5)	309/404 (76.5)	335/404 (82.9)

Values are presented as number (%).

LN, lymph node; US, ultrasonography; PPV, positive predictive value; NPV, negative predictive value.

Supplementary Table 2. Results of multivariate analysis: significant findings in the FNAB-positive group (n=64)

Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI	P-value
T stage			0.627
T1	1 (reference)		
T2	1.26	0.50–3.17	
Mean cortical thickness	0.73	0.08–6.78	0.784
No. of suspicious LNs			
1	1 (reference)		
2	4.34	1.39–13.53	0.011
3 or more	36.15	2.68–488.37	0.007
Hilar compression			
None	1 (reference)		
Compression	1.64	0.51–5.30	0.412
Loss	1.47	0.33–6.58	0.617
Shape			0.983 ^{a)}
Oval	1 (reference)		
Round	0.95	0.01–90.05	
Margin			0.293
Circumscribed	1 (reference)		
Not circumscribed	0.31	0.04–2.74	
Extranodal extension			0.234 ^{a)}
None	1 (reference)		
Presence	37.70	0.10–999.99	
Subtype			
ER-, PR-positive	1.14	0.27–4.75	0.861
HER2-positive	1.26	0.28–5.75	0.765
Triple-negative	1 (reference)		

FNAB, fine-needle aspiration biopsy; CI, confidence interval; LN, lymph node; ER, estrogen receptor; PR, progesterone receptor; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2.

^{a)}P-value from Firth analysis.

Supplementary Table 3. Results of multivariate analysis: significant findings in the FNAB-negative group (n=17)

Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI	P-value
T stage			<0.001
T1	1 (reference)		
T2	2.22	2.19–2.25	
Mean cortical thickness	0.50	0.48–0.51	<0.001
No. of suspicious LNs			
1	1 (reference)		
2	3.77	3.69–3.84	<0.001
3 or more	2.78	2.67–2.90	<0.001
Hilar compression			
None	1 (reference)		
Compression	1.58	1.54–1.62	<0.001
Loss	21.90	21.15–22.69	<0.001
Shape			
Oval	1 (reference)		
Round	N/A	N/A	
Margin			0.903 ^{a)}
Circumscribed	1 (reference)		
Not circumscribed	>999.99	0.001–999.99	
Extranodal extension			0.231 ^{a)}
None	1 (reference)		
Presence	>999.99	0.001–999.99	
Subtype			
ER-, PR-positive	2.33	2.30–2.36	<0.001
HER2-positive	0.96	0.94–0.99	<0.001
Triple-negative	1 (reference)		

FNAB, fine-needle aspiration biopsy; CI, confidence interval; LN, lymph node; N/A, not available; ER, estrogen receptor; PR, progesterone receptor; HER2, human epidermal growth factor 2.

^{a)}P-value from Firth analysis.