

BREAST CANCER

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BREAST CANCER

A GUIDE TO DETECTION AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY THERAPY

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Foreword by

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Cover design by Patricia F. Cleary.

Cover illustration: Round and oval masses are more often benign, and irregularly shaped masses or masses with spiculated margins are usually malignant. In this patient with a palpable lump in the left breast, an irregularly shaped mass was later found to represent carcinoma. (Fig. 11, Chapter 2; *see* full caption and discussion on p. 34.)

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Foreword

Breast cancer is responsible for one of every three cancers diagnosed in women. In 2001, approximately 192,200 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed along with 46,600 cases of *in situ* breast cancer. Approximately 40,200 women and 400 men will die of breast cancer this year. Excluding skin cancer, breast cancer is the commonest cancer occurring in women and certainly the most feared. Although the lifetime risk of developing breast cancer is one in eight (12.5%), this reflects the risk of a child just born developing breast cancer during her lifetime. Risks of developing breast cancer over the next ten years for women of any age are substantially lower (i.e., 2.5% for a 50-year-old woman).

The incidence of breast cancer rose progressively in the latter half of the 20th century, but appears to have stabilized since the 1990s. The rise in breast cancer mirrored the lifestyle changes in our country, with delayed pregnancies, fewer pregnancies, and the concomitant improved nutritional status of our society, influencing earlier menarche and later menopause. We have recently witnessed a national decline in breast cancer mortality associated with increasing use of mammography and improved breast cancer treatment. Between 1990 and 1997, breast cancer death rates decreased approximately 2% per year and are expected to continue in this pattern for some time to come.

The principal goal of the editor and authors of *Breast Cancer: A Guide to Detection and Multidisciplinary Therapy* is to produce a work that is both concise and clinically focused, but nevertheless provides the reader, regardless of level of expertise, with up-to-date information on the latest treatment standards and outcomes. Since breast cancer management is one of the most continually evolving areas of oncology practice, the authors have sought to address some of the current controversies, including breast conserving surgery without radiation therapy, sentinel node mapping, and bone marrow transplantation, among others. Their purpose here is not to resolve the controversial issues, but to provide the reader with the rationale for the treatment approaches as well as the robustness of the data supporting their use.

The great strength of the book is its multidisciplinary format. In virtually all aspects of cancer treatment, optimal cancer management is becoming a coordinated effort among multiple experts. *Breast Cancer: A Guide to Detection and Multidisciplinary Therapy* seeks to gather expertise from a wide array of oncology disciplines to provide the reader with a broad and balanced perspective on the optimal management of breast cancer.

One of the remarkable and somewhat unique aspects of breast cancer is the intense involvement of patients, survivors, and family members in the quest for progress. More has been written, discussed, and debated about breast cancer treatment than about any other single cancer. In this discussion, breast cancer patients have become educated, informed, and active in seeking optimal care. They come to physicians as the most broadly knowledgeable about the disease of any cancer patients. They ask important and penetrating questions. Many of the answers to their questions are found in this book.

Robert C. Young, MD
President, Fox-Chase Cancer Center
President, American Cancer Society

Preface

Breast Cancer: A Guide to Detection and Multidisciplinary Therapy offers comprehensive coverage of the multidisciplinary management of patients with breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common noncutaneous malignancy of women. Fortunately, the incidence of breast cancer in the United States has begun to decline in the past few years and its diagnosis is being made at increasingly earlier stages. Nevertheless, this cancer causes especially devastating effects not only because of the typical burdens associated with cancer, but also because of its strong emotional, social, and family stresses. Multidisciplinary evaluation and treatment of those with breast cancer is essential to provide optimal management of these patients.

Breast Cancer: A Guide to Detection and Multidisciplinary Therapy is designed as a concise, clinically relevant state-of-the-art book composed by experts in the clinical, research, and epidemiologic aspects of breast cancer. Part I presents comprehensive diagnostic and management aspects of treating breast cancer patients from a multidisciplinary, clinical perspective. Epidemiologic and genetic development of breast cancer, diagnostic breast imaging, surgical biopsy, oncologic treatment options, radiation oncology rationale and techniques, and systemic therapies are clearly elucidated. In Part II, special clinical situations are addressed, including adjuvant chemotherapy, axillary adenopathy as initial presentation, breast cancer during pregnancy, local/regional recurrence, nipple discharge, and miscellaneous tumors of the breast. Finally, Part III provides a current review of controversies and areas of clinical research in breast cancer. Clinical issues such as breast-conserving surgery without radiation therapy, axillary lymph node management, the role of sentinel lymph node mapping and biopsy, management of internal mammary lymph nodes, transplantation, immunotherapy, and gene therapy are discussed, along with their potential implications to alter the management of breast cancer patients in the future.

The goal of *Breast Cancer: A Guide to Detection and Multidisciplinary Therapy* is to provide a comprehensive and clinically relevant paradigm for treating the breast cancer patient. The multidisciplinary approach evident throughout this book should appeal to surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, gynecologists, primary care physicians, gerontologists, and all other physicians and health care personnel involved in the management of the breast cancer patient.

Michael H. Torosian, MD, FACS

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