

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.

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