
Preface

Over the last several decades, there has been an explosion in our knowledge base regarding the genetic basis of breast cancer. With the discovery of novel genes, and with novel technology that has made genetic testing more easily available and affordable, there has been increasing interest on the part of patients and providers to access these services. Celebrities like Angelina Jolie have come forth to tell their story, and more patients are now aware of their family history and genetic risk. At the same time, with the Supreme Court's overturning of the Myriad patent and with the development of affordable panels for genetic testing for breast cancer risk, there has been a democratization of access to this technology. With this, however, has come a barrage of issues that bombard clinicians working in this space. How do we risk stratify our patients? Who should receive genetic testing? When should we use panels? How do we interpret a variant of uncertain significance? As more patients undergo genetic testing, we are increasingly faced with questions surrounding the value of prophylactic mastectomy, oophorectomy, or how best to surveil our patients who opt not to undergo mastectomy. In patients who are diagnosed with cancer and who harbor a genetic mutation, nuances exist in terms of their surgical, medical, and radiation management. Clearly, fertility preservation and preimplantation genetic assessment are also considerations. And of course, more men with genetic mutations are diagnosed with breast cancer, and they warrant specific considerations. Finally, throughout the journey—from genetic assessment through surgery and survivorship—patients with genetic mutations have a variety of psychosocial considerations and may have concerns about the legal implications of their diagnosis. This book is intended to help clinicians navigate this complex landscape.

We are incredibly grateful to the stellar authors who have participated in this project. Their expertise is unparalleled, and we appreciate their thoughtful consideration in preparing the chapters herein. In addition, we are grateful to Stephanie Frost and the rest of the team at Springer for their assistance in bringing this work to fruition.

We hope that you should find this volume of interest, and helpful to you in your practice. We look forward to your feedback!

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