

MEDICAL RADIOLOGY

Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology

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Non-Disseminated Breast Cancer

Controversial Issues in Management

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This book is dedicated to
Dr. GILBERT H. FLETCHER,
mentor, colleague, and friend,
who will be missed by all of us
and to whom the entire oncology world
owes a great debt.

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Foreword

In the last two decades, there has been a major increase in the actual numbers of women diagnosed with breast cancer (from 65 000 new cases 20 years ago in the United States to 183 000 in 1993). Concomitant with this has been a shift toward making the diagnosis earlier and toward diagnosing an earlier stage of the disease (more than 70% of diagnoses were of advanced-stage disease two decades ago, whereas more than 70% of diagnoses are now earlier-stage disease in 1992). These changes are clearly related to the woman's greater sensitivity to abnormalities in the breast and her seeking medical care, to the physician's greater awareness of the potential diagnosis of cancer, and to the major and important impact of mammographic screening.

These changes have had a major impact on the questions of appropriate treatment, thereby contributing to the controversies in the disease. What is the role of surgery? What are the respective advantages of radical mastectomy, modified radical mastectomy, and conservation surgery with and without supplementary treatment? What is the role of radiation therapy? When should radiation therapy be performed after mastectomy, and what volumes should be irradiated post mastectomy? Where is radiation therapy indicated after conservation surgery, and when is radiation therapy an effective palliative treatment measure? When should chemotherapy and/or hormonal therapy be used as an adjuvant to primary treatment and when as an effective palliative treatment?

This book by Levitt and Fletcher addresses these critical and important issues. Clearly, in primary management, combined integrated multimodal treatment regimens at diagnosis have the greatest opportunity for maximizing the potential for cure, while minimizing the complications of treatment.

Philadelphia/Hamburg, May 1993

LUTHER W. BRADY · HANS-PETER HEILMANN

Preface

The idea for *Non-Disseminated Breast Cancer: Controversial Issues in Management* was conceived about three years ago after much discussion between Dr. Gilbert H. Fletcher and me about the need to evaluate treatment of early breast cancer. Despite the remarkable progress made in the management of this disease, controversy over screening, diagnosis, and treatment exists, as evidenced by the chapters that follow in this book. Our intention in writing this book is to present areas of most concern to the physician directly involved in the treatment of early breast cancer patients. By recruiting leaders to write about their expertise in the treatment and management of early breast cancer, we hope to provide material that will help physicians in their treatment decisions.

The publication of this book is a landmark. It is the last academic effort by Dr. Gilbert H. Fletcher, a world-renowned giant in the field of oncology and medicine. Despite being ill for over a year prior to his death, he was actively involved nearly to his last breath in both writing and editing. He died on January 11, 1992. This book is dedicated to his memory, to the memory of a man with a wonderful searching and inquisitive mind and who engaged both mind and heart in his love for teaching, research, and clinical practice. He has contributed magnificently to our knowledge of oncology.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in bringing this project to fruition, especially the authors for their time, effort, and knowledge, Mary Beth Nierengarten at the University of Minnesota for her editorial assistance, Barbara Foremsky and Mary Jane Oswald at the M.D. Anderson Hospital, and the staff at Springer-Verlag.

Minneapolis, May 1993

SEYMOUR H. LEVITT

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