

**Book:** *Breast Cancer, Second Edition*

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*Breast Cancer, Second Edition* is a review of breast cancer care from its history through the disease course. The text comes with a fully searchable CD-ROM that allows printing of pertinent material and drawings that may be useful in patient education. The editors and authors of the chapters are well recognized in the field and from well-known organizations. While the book states it is focused on physicians, the depth of content seems limited in scope and might be more appropriately targeted to new clinical staff or the well-educated consumer. Using terms such as arm edema rather than lymphedema post axillary lymph node dissection and stating that mammography is the most likely screening modality for breast cancer are examples of the somewhat basic nature of the text. The scope of the text covers the major modalities of care, including surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and, touching briefly, on genetics and biotherapy. The final chapter, "A Patient's Perspective" was of interest as presenting one woman's discussion of her progress from diagnosis and suggestions to the physicians caring for her. This text may be an excellent resource for a Cancer Center or Breast Center, with a copy to the Patient Resource Library and certainly would be of benefit in orientation of clinical staff to breast cancer.

The discussion of breast cancer is very much evolutionary in the text, meaning that it brings a historical perspective to how breast cancer has been managed over time. Many of the references are older in nature and describe extensive studies used to get where breast cancer care appears to be today. Some of the content seems very generic and a practicing physician might have difficulty drawing guidance from its content. That being said, one of the most interesting chapters is the first one, "History of Breast Cancer", a fascinating look at breast cancer described in the ancient world. A passage attributed to Imhotep, an Egyptian physician-architect in the 30<sup>th</sup> Century BC describing eight cases of ailments of the breast, seems daunting when you realize that 5000 years of care has not produced a cure.

The review of breast anatomy is a good refresher for staff and may be of interest to educate patients, particularly about lymphedema as lymphatic drainage is discussed. A brief chapter outlines the potentials for Breast Centers, including measuring quality. An attention to physician competence and patient satisfaction with care was included as important to quality measurement. There is content related to process measures in quality in this segment of the book, as the endpoint of care is too far out to really be a measure for a Breast Center. Of note are the chapters on diagnostic radiology interventions that are quite educational, as well as diagnostic techniques, as these areas may be less known by clinicians. The pictures and diagrams accompanying the surgical intervention chapters are well presented and may be useful, particularly if patients want to see reconstruction examples. Given that multiple staff in different specialties see the patient throughout the process of care, this book may provide a coordinated view of what the patient encounters throughout the continuum.

While the book may not be as useful to its target audience of physicians, it may be a good read for clinical staff interested in increasing their knowledge of the management of breast cancer from diagnosis through all phases of treatment.