

Oncologic Breast Surgery Updates: A Comprehensive Overview of Contemporary Surgical Advances



Oncologic Breast Surgery (Updates in Surgery)

by Zacharias Zachariou

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women worldwide. Oncologic breast surgery, which involves the surgical removal of breast tumors and surrounding tissues, is a critical component of breast cancer treatment. Over the past decade, significant advancements in surgical techniques and approaches have led to improved outcomes and enhanced quality of life for breast cancer patients.

Surgical Advancements

Minimally invasive surgery, commonly known as breast-conserving surgery, has become increasingly popular. This approach aims to remove the tumor

while preserving as much healthy breast tissue as possible. Techniques such as lumpectomy and quadrantectomy are commonly employed, resulting in excellent cosmetic outcomes and similar survival rates compared to traditional mastectomy.

Robotic surgery is another promising advancement in oncologic breast surgery. Robotic-assisted systems offer improved precision, dexterity, and visualization, enabling surgeons to perform complex procedures with less invasiveness. Robotic surgery has been shown to reduce pain, scarring, and recovery time compared to traditional open surgery.

Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy

Sentinel lymph node biopsy is a procedure that identifies the first lymph node into which cancer cells from the breast are likely to spread. This technique allows surgeons to assess the spread of cancer and guide subsequent treatment decisions. Traditionally, multiple lymph nodes were removed during breast cancer surgery, increasing the risk of complications such as lymphedema.

Advanced imaging techniques, such as radioactive tracer injection and blue dye staining, have significantly improved the identification of sentinel lymph nodes. By selectively removing only the sentinel lymph node, surgeons can minimize the risk of complications while still obtaining accurate staging information.

Neoadjuvant Therapy

Neoadjuvant therapy refers to chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or hormone therapy administered before surgery. This approach aims to shrink tumors, making them easier to remove and increasing the likelihood of breast

preservation. Neoadjuvant therapy has become an essential component of breast cancer treatment, particularly for patients with locally advanced or inflammatory breast cancer.

The use of neoadjuvant therapy has led to a significant increase in breast conservation rates and improved overall survival. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to assess tumor response to therapy, guiding subsequent surgical decisions.

Breast Reconstruction

For patients undergoing mastectomy, breast reconstruction is an important consideration to restore breast shape and symmetry. Advancements in reconstructive techniques have resulted in more natural-looking and functional outcomes.

Implant-based reconstruction and autologous tissue reconstruction (using the patient's own tissue) are the two main methods of breast reconstruction. Implant-based reconstruction involves the insertion of saline or silicone breast implants into the chest cavity. Autologous tissue reconstruction involves transferring tissue from other parts of the body, such as the abdomen or back, to create a new breast mound.

Oncologic breast surgery has witnessed remarkable advancements in recent years, offering patients a wider range of surgical options, improved outcomes, and enhanced quality of life. From minimally invasive surgery to advanced imaging techniques and precision-guided therapies, surgeons continue to refine their approaches to deliver optimal care to breast cancer patients.

Ongoing research and innovations in oncologic breast surgery hold promise for further improvements in surgical outcomes and patient satisfaction. By staying informed about the latest advances, patients and healthcare providers can work together to make informed decisions and achieve the best possible results.



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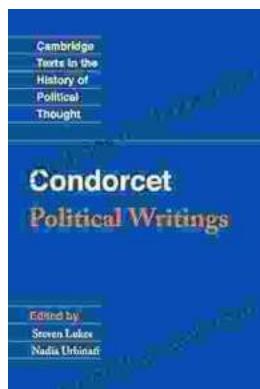
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