

Breast cancer

By: Singletary SE

Springer-Verlag Hong Kong Ltd., 1702 Tower I, Enterprise Square, 9 Sheung Yuet Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong
HK\$736.00, pp 365, ISBN 0 387 98369 4

Breast Cancer presents the new developments in various aspects of breast cancer management. The topics are up-to-date, and the background knowledge as well as experience of the author is well presented. Topics on the diagnosis of breast cancer include the controversial issues on sonography, scintigraphy, and magnetic resonance imaging; the role of fine-needle versus core-needle biopsy in the preoperative diagnosis of breast cancer; and new techniques of stereotactic core biopsy. On the treatment of breast cancer, the new techniques of sentinel node biopsy versus axillary dissection, breast conservation, skin-sparing mastectomy, and prophylactic mastectomy are discussed in various chapters. The book also addresses specific problems

in breast cancer management such as pregnancy, male breast cancer, inflammatory cancer, sarcoma, and hereditary cancer. Furthermore, experimental therapies, including dose-intense chemotherapy, laser ablation, and cryosurgery, are presented and explained.

Breast Cancer provides a practical approach to help clinicians solve problems in breast cancer management. It is a highly recommended reference source.

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Procedures and documentation for mammography and quality management

By: Williams EK, Wagner J

McGraw-Hill Book Company, Suite 2310, One Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong
US\$34.95, pp 168, ISBN 0 07 135398 4

Mammography is currently the most effective non-invasive means of imaging the breast. Initially developed as a diagnostic aid to evaluate clinically detected breast abnormalities, mammography has evolved to be a widely used method to screen occult breast cancers in asymptomatic women. During the past 20 years, there has been substantial advancement in this field, in terms of image quality and reduction in radiation dose. Yet, the success of mammography has been more than a consequence of improvements in the hardware; it has also been accomplished through the refinement of various techniques such as positioning, compression, and quality control. It is the quality control that guarantees consistently high-quality images, which ultimately optimise the diagnostic yield of mammography.

To ensure a uniform high standard in the practice of mammography, the American College of Radiology

(ACR) has set up a Mammography Accreditation Program. The ACR has also established the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Mammography Subspecialty Examination. *Procedures and Documentation for Mammography and Quality Management* is a guide for those who would like to take the ARRT advanced examinations in mammography and quality management. The 10 chapters are divided into two sections: the first is on mammography and focuses on the production of high-quality images, and the second is devoted to quality control tests and quality management. The appendix comprises information on test frequency for diagnostic radiography and mammography, as well as a separate section of documentation forms, which can be used to verify the procedures done.

The first four chapters include proficiency criteria on the following topics: patient education; technique;

positioning; and quality control and management. The third chapter also covers modified techniques—namely, for the augmented breast, immobile patient, large breast, small breast, and the male patient. The fifth chapter is on equipment evaluation, and the sixth is on quality control procedures. This chapter, however, is largely a repetition of chapter four, except for minor differences in wording, and I could not tell if this duplication was intentional to emphasise the importance of the subject, or if it was an editorial oversight.

As professionals, we aim to serve patients with the highest standard of practice. As stated by the authors in the Preface, “While advanced qualification may not

guarantee quality, they add credibility to the overall knowledge of the imaging professional. Competence can only be achieved through active participation, repetition, and real interest in perfecting that which one does.” For radiographers working in mammography, this book would be a useful reference during daily practice. It would also be useful for administrators involved in mammography.

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EBM guidelines. Evidence-based medicine

By: Kunnamo I

Duodecim Medical Publications Ltd., PO Box 713, FIN-00101 Helsinki, Finland
US\$89.00, CD-ROM, ISBN 1457 5175

This CD-ROM is a companion to the web-based version of *Evidence-Based Medicine* (<http://www.ebm-guidelines.com>). Whereas the web-based version is more responsive and easier to navigate, the CD-ROM is very readable and is akin to a comprehensive manual for primary care doctors. I checked the entries for breast cancer screening, resuscitation, diabetes mellitus, and ischaemic stroke, and found the information accurate and advice (eg for family physicians) sound.

When the CD-ROM is compared with alternative resources, such as *Clinical Evidence* from BMJ Publishing Group, or *Med-weave* and *Cline-guide* under the brandname of *Ovid*, the other products are more sophisticated, quote more detailed references, have a more quantitative analysis, and make more specific use of different levels of evidence. *Clinical Evidence* uses a three-part clinical question approach, whereas the *Ovid* products often allow free-text searches. The CD-ROM, however, mainly uses a topical approach,

and the advanced search allows only the combination of a key word with a text word. The content is not all supported by categorised evidence, but in those places where robust evidence is outstanding, there is comprehensive coverage of practical problems.

Overall, the CD-ROM is a useful ‘manual’ for primary care doctors, senior medical students during their clinical training, and junior doctors undergoing specialist training that deals with primary care problems from time to time. For specialists and more highly trained personnel, other databases such as the Cochrane database, and that in the Hospital Authority Library Information Services might be more appropriate.

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