



Breast Cancer Basics

Surgical Management in Breast Cancer

The Role of Different Types of Surgery and the Management of Patients with Breast Cancer

Dr. Medhani Gupta-Hematology Oncology Fellow, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo NY

Dr. Jessica Young-Associate Professor of Oncology, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Assistant professor of Surgery, State University of New York at Buffalo

Dr. Medhani Gupta: Welcome to GRACE breast cancer video series. My name is Medhani Gupta. Today, we'll be chatting about surgical management of breast cancer. I'm joined by Dr. Jessica Young. Dr. Young is an assistant professor with the division of surgical oncology and also part of comprehensive cancer center in Buffalo, New York. She's also a member of National Comprehensive Cancer Network or NCCN guidelines panel for breast cancer. Welcome Dr. Young, it's a pleasure to have you with us. So why don't you start the discussion by talking about the role of surgery in the management of patients with breast cancer?

Dr. Jessica Young: So, breast cancer is obviously a really popular field and surgery for breast cancer is really one of the mainstays of treatment. There are so many different kinds of treatment for breast cancer now, but surgery is really still the main focus in terms of making sure the primary tumor comes out.

Dr. Medhani Gupta: Could you talk about the different types of surgeries?

Dr. Jessica Young: Absolutely. So, when we think about breast cancer surgery, I tend to like to split everything into two different groups. One part is really just the, what are we going to do about the primary tumor in the breast? And then the second part is really whether we have to do anything in the lymph nodes. And if so, what do we need to do? A lot of patients tend to focus on the breast area, which is very understandable. That's the part that they see more and they understand more. But it's really, actually two sort of



separate areas. So, in terms of the breasts, generally speaking, we can really usually offer

two options. One is to have a lumpectomy, which is a small area of the breast where the cancer is removed but really leaving the rest of the breast intact. So, the nipple stays the same, the breast shape stays the same. It is a smaller surgery and relatively easier recovery. And then we have the mastectomy, which is where we remove the entire breast and all of the breast tissue on that side including the cancer obviously, but that is a very different surgery in that it is much more deforming.

It's a larger surgery. And so, there's a lot more recovery with that. Sometimes we're not able to offer the lumpectomy for some patients. When, for example, the mass is too large and their breast size is relatively too small. If we think that it's not going to look good, then it's not something that we'll offer them. In terms of mastectomies, there are actually several different types of mastectomies that you can have, you can have, what's called a simple mastectomy where we take the nipple and the areola and all the breast tissue and quite a bit of skin. And usually that patient does not have reconstruction. And so that's just flat on the chest wall. You can also have a reconstruction with mastectomies. And sometimes we take the nipple and sometimes we do, what's called a nipple sparing mastectomy. And then there are different kinds of reconstruction with that as well. So, depending on what your candidate for, or what you want to have, or whether you're a candidate at all you can have an implant-based reconstruction or sometimes a tissue-based reconstruction, or we also call that [inaudible].