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图书基本信息

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## 内容概要

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the Western world. Its incidence has gradually been rising and, since the introduction of screening mammography in the 1980s, its growth has even accelerated. Moreover, in some regions of Asia, a surge in incidence has also occurred and has been attributed, at least in part, to a "Westernization" of lifestyle. Recently, it has been observed in several countries that the mortality associated with breast cancer is dropping. This may be due to changes in the biology of tumors (e.g., a greater proportion of estrogen-receptor-positive tumors), earlier presentation as a result of screening and education of the public, and improvements in treatment. About one third to one half of patients with breast cancer benefit from these improvements, so -- with such a common disease -- modern management that incorporates these improvements can affect the lives of many women.

The goal of *Roses's Breast Cancer* is to present current issues in the diagnosis and management of breast cancer from the viewpoint of the practicing physician. It offers considerably more information than is usual in general surgical and medical textbooks, but by covering virtually all aspects of the disease in 688 pages it is less encyclopedic in certain areas (e.g., molecular biology) than are specialized textbooks on these subjects. Interestingly, the book is organized in a question-and-answer format. "What is the frequency of breast cancer in the United States?" is the first question in the book; "What other social and psychological issues should be addressed with the patient?" (in the chapter on genetic counseling) is the last. Although artificial, this approach helps to keep the text focused on the needs of all who are involved in the care of patients with breast cancer.

The book is also a source of information on subjects related to breast cancer that elsewhere are often dealt with superficially. Twelve pages are devoted to breast cancer in men, 20 to breast cancer in women who are pregnant, and 22 to the pathology of special forms of breast cancer. Inevitably, a book such as this also has its imbalances. The chapter on the treatment of metastatic breast cancer is considerably shorter than the chapter on pathology. Almost 40 pages deal with reconstructive surgery, whereas only 11 pages concern the principles of chemotherapy. Moreover, of that 11-page discussion, 5 pages deal with high-dose chemotherapy with stem-cell transplantation, an approach of unproven value in the treatment of metastatic disease.

*Breast Cancer* is a beautiful book that contains a wealth of information and illustrations related to this fascinating disease. Despite its imbalances, it will be of great use to all those who care for patients with breast cancer and who have questions requiring a quick, precise, and up-to-date answer.

## 书籍目录

SECTION MOLECULAR AND EPIDEMIOLOGIC ISSUES CHAPTER 1 Epidemiology of Breast Cancer  
CHAPTER 2 The Oncogenetic Basis of Breast Cancer CHAPTER 3 Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental  
Biology of Breast Cancer CHAPTER 4 Hormonal Influences on Oncogenesis and Growth of Breast Cancer  
CHAPTER 5 Risk Factors for Development of Breast Cancer CHAPTER 6 Prevention of Breast  
CancerSECTION PATHOLOGY CHAPTER 7 Pathologic Evolution of Preinvasive Breast Cancer: The  
Atypical Hyperplasias CHAPTER 8 Pathology of In Situ Breast Cancer CHAPTER 9 Pathology of Invasive  
Breast Cancer CHAPTER 10 Pathology of Special Forms of Breast Cancer CHAPTER 11 Pathology of  
Regional Lymph Nodes CHAPTER 12 Molecular Pathology Assays for Breast CancerSECTION  
DIAGNOSIS CHAPTER 13 Surveillance Strategy for Detection of Breast Cancer CHAPTER 14 Clinical  
Assessment of Breast Cancer and Benign Breast Disease CHAPTER 15 Mammographic Diagnosis of Breast  
Cancer CHAPTER 16 Sonographic Diagnosis of Breast Cancer CHAPTER 17 Needle Biopsy Diagnosis of  
Breast Cancer CHAPTER 18 Advanced Technology and Diagnostic Strategy for Breast CancerSECTION  
STAGING AND PROGNOSISSECTION TREATMENTSECTION MANAGEMENT OF METASTATIC  
BREAST CANCERSECTION SPECIAL ISSUES IN BREAST CANCER TREATMENTSECTION  
PSYCHOLOGICAL, NURSING, AND SOCIAL ISSUESIndex

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