

Breast Cancer – where are we? what are we heading for?

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Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women and the one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in the world. In recent years, significant progress has been made in understanding the biology of this cancer, resulting in the development of various new treatment methods. In surgical treatment, mutilating procedures like breast amputation can often be replaced by breast conserving therapy, and procedures involving the removal of all axillary lymph nodes can in many cases be replaced by sentinel node biopsy. There has also been significant technological advancement in radiotherapy, making this treatment increasingly precise and associated with fewer side effects.

In systemic treatment, there is a growing number of new effective drugs that contribute to achieving more cures for early-stage breast cancer patients, while providing advanced-stage patients with opportunities for extended survival and improved quality of life. Moreover, better understanding of the molecular mechanisms of cancer development allows for overcoming major mechanisms of treatment resistance, as well as identification of patients who can undergo less intensive treatment without compromising outcomes. All of these factors contribute to higher cure rates, longer survival for patients, and an overall improvement in their quality of life.