

Book Review: Breast Cancer: The Art and Science of Early Detection with Mammography.

Authors: Laszlo Tabar, Tibor Tot, and Peter B. Dean, University of Uppsala School of Medicine, Uppsala, Sweden, and University of Turku, Turku, Finland (ISBN 1-58890-259-5. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany 2005; hardcover, pp 476, more than 2000 color or black-and-white illustrations, \$199.50)

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The correlation of gross and microscopic pathologic findings with radiologic features of various tumors has been a basic tenet of orthopedic oncology. A tripartite approach, including orthopedic surgeons, radiologists, and pathologists, has become routine in most medical centers, and it appears just a matter of time before similar multidisciplinary teams are formed in other clinical subspecialties. The present innovative book provides strong evidence that a team approach to breast cancer can be highly rewarding. The book shows that by juxtaposing clinical, radiologic, and pathologic findings one can achieve as much in breast pathology as the time honored work-up of bone tumors has already shown in orthopedic oncology. Even if we do not immediately apply the complex methods described in this book, we can learn a great deal from the experience of the Nordic authors who have written it. I hope that this treatise will be widely read.

This book is the summary of more than two decades of assiduous work by three enthusiastic collaborators from Sweden and Finland. Over the years they have been correlating mammographic data on benign and malignant breast lesions with the appearances of such lesions in large section histopathologic slides prepared from the entire biopsy, lumpectomy, or mastectomy specimens. This method has enabled them to gain insights that could not be possible with other techniques that are typically used for routine evaluation of breast tumors and related non-neoplastic diseases. The approach is time consuming and requires technical dexterity. Hence, I doubt that it could be used

anywhere but specialized breast cancer treatment centers. Nevertheless, the data collected by masters of this methodology and summarized in this beautiful book will teach many of us who see breast biopsies only as tissue fragments and never really visualize the entire lesion. After reading this book, I admit that I will never again look at breast biopsies in the same way as I have done for many years.

The book is based on a large collection of high-quality mammograms and corresponding photomicrographs of large-section histopathologic preparations. The authors have worked as a team and have amassed a wealth of clinical, radiologic, and pathologic data on a cohort of women suspected of having breast cancer. The emphasis is on early cancer detection and on conditions that clinically, radiologically, or pathologically mimic cancer or precede it. The data are presented systematically in a long introduction and nine additional chapters that deal with specific patterns of breast disease. The text is profusely illustrated with radiologic and pathologic photographs. The pathologic pictures are in full color, and without exception are technically excellent, informative, well chosen, and of high didactic value. The text that accompanies the figures is mostly limited to descriptions of illustrations, but as has been said before many times, one picture is worth a thousand words. Technical details about the methodology are given for those who might consider using this technique.

This beautiful book is a must read for mammographers and breast pathologists, but it should be also on the reading list of surgeons and oncologists dealing with breast diseases, as well as their residents. The authors deserve our gratitude for putting all this together and teaching us in a condensed form what they have learned the hard way over so many years.

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