

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the United States after skin cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates that the chance of a woman having invasive breast cancer during her life is about 1 in 8. A woman's risk of breast cancer approximately doubles if she has a mother, sister or daughter diagnosed with the disease. The main types of treatment for breast cancer include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and hormone therapy.

Radiation Treatment for Breast Cancer

Radiation therapy is local targeted treatment used to kill cancer cells. Radiation is also used to destroy any remaining cancer cells after surgery in the breast, chest wall or underarm. Radiation may also be used to shrink the tumor before surgery. Radiation to the breast is often needed after breast-conserving surgery and is also given after any chemotherapy. Radiation can significantly reduce the risk of breast cancer recurrence.

Patient Spotlight

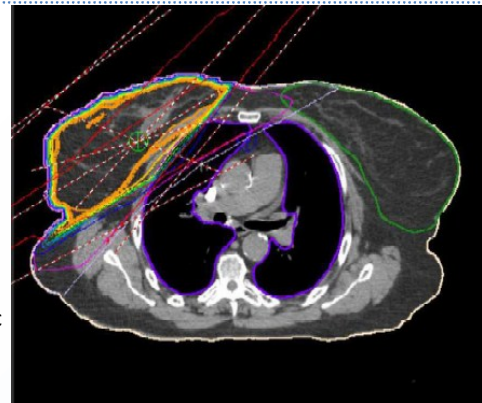
The patient is a 70 year-old woman with a history of microcalcifications within the medial aspect of her right breast going back for at least three years. She underwent biopsy that showed focal ductal carcinoma in situ with micro invasion and a fragment of necrotic material thought possibly to represent intraductal necrosis. The patient had a sentinel node biopsy that was positive only for reactive lymphoid hyperplasia but no metastatic cancer. This was staged as an AJCC T_{1mic}N_{0(SN)}M₀ Stage 1 infiltrating ductal carcinoma in the medial aspect of the right breast..

Treatment

The patient received Step and Shoot Tangents 16 fractions of 266cGy to a total dose of 4256cGy. An accelerated course of treatment; 16 fractions verses 32 fractions.

Post-Treatment

The patient tolerated treatment well. She did have some mild hyperpigmentation without pruritus or pain. One month later the patient had some late dry desquamation in the treatment area. Her cosmetic outcome is good and improving.



Treatment at Alliance Cancer Center in Greenville and Clarksdale

Treatment plans will depend on several factors, including the exact location of the tumor, stage of the disease and the age and general health of the patient. Eligibility criteria will be determined by the physician to see if the patient qualifies for treatment using the hypofractionated whole-breast irradiation plan. For many women the time, expense and logistics of extended treatment period may be unmanageable. Shortening the duration of post-surgical radiation therapy may allow more women to undergo this vital treatment. For more information call or visit:

www.Alliance-Greenville.com

662-332-6150

www.Alliance-Clarksdale.com

662-624-8731

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