

DISEASES OF
THE BREAST

Diagnosis · Pathology · Treatment

By

CHARLES F. GESCHICKTER, M.A., M.D.

*Lieut. Commander, Medical Corps, United States Naval Reserve
Director of The Francis P. Garvan
Cancer Research Laboratory
Pathologist, St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore*

With a Special Section on Treatment
in Collaboration with

MURRAY M. COPELAND, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S.

*Instructor in Surgery, Johns Hopkins Medical School
Visiting Surgeon and Assistant Oncologist, University Hospital,
University of Maryland Medical School
Visiting Oncologist, Baltimore City Hospitals*

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THIS BOOK
IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED TO
THE MEMORY OF
BLANCHE AND FRANK WOLF

Preface to the First Edition

In recent years contributions to the etiology, the diagnosis and the treatment of mammary diseases have accumulated rapidly. Much of the progress made can be attributed to the different groups of specialists interested in these problems. The specialties concerned include surgery, radiology, obstetrics and gynecology, pathology, endocrinology and laboratory technology. In bringing together in this volume the work done in these diverse fields, the usefulness of this information to the general practitioner as well as to the specialties enumerated has been foremost in mind.

A comprehensive and critical treatment of the subject necessitates the analysis of an adequate amount of original material. In addition to the patients seen in practice and on the surgical wards of Doctor Dean Lewis at the Johns Hopkins Hospital a study has been made of the case histories, specimens, and follow-up studies recorded in the Surgical Pathological Laboratory of Johns Hopkins. This library of data to which Doctor Bloodgood and his predecessors, Doctors Halsted and Welch, so largely contributed has been analyzed and presented in tabular form. In this way it is possible for the reader, to a great extent, to form his personal judgments concerning the conclusions and recommendations made.

It is now established that childbearing and nursing, as well as ovarian function, play a role in the development of mammary cancer, in the formation of benign tumors and in the diseases collectively known as chronic cystic mastitis. The influence of the sex hormones in the production of these conditions has been demonstrated experimentally. It is hoped that the increased interest in the mammary gland on the part of the obstetrician, the gynecologist, and the endocrinologist that has resulted, will be stimulated further by the parts of this book dealing with this aspect of the subject.

The increasing importance which has been placed upon microscopic pathology in the diagnosis and treatment of lesions of the breast has led to the inclusion in each chapter, of a section devoted to this important phase of the subject, and to separate chapters dealing with the pathology of forms of mammary cancer and with their differential diagnosis by means of the microscope.

The controversial points in the treatment of mammary disease, including bleeding from the nipple, the relation of chronic cystic

mastitis and benign tumors to cancer, and the relative merits of radical surgery, irradiation, or a combination of both forms of therapy, have been dealt with on the basis of the end-results achieved in a large series of cases. In presenting the data on these problems an attempt has been made to place on a more secure footing the choice of treatment by the clinician.

In experimental studies conducted in the author's laboratory over a period of years on the relation of endocrines to mammary pathology, the forms of cystic mastitis and practically all varieties of benign and malignant mammary tumors have been produced in the rat and the rabbit. The importance of these experiments for the interpretation of etiologic factors and inter-relationships among mammary diseases has led to the inclusion of a section summarizing these investigations.

C. F. G.

715 North Charles St.
Baltimore, Md.

Preface to the Second Edition

The Second Edition of this work has afforded an opportunity to make a number of revisions and additions. The orientations to the seven major divisions of the book have been enlarged and rewritten so that they more fully summarize the salient features included in the individual chapters. Chapter 17, which reviews the present-day knowledge in regard to mammary carcinoma, has been enlarged, while Chapter 35, The Mechanism of Tumor Formation, has been entirely rewritten.

New material has been added on parasitic infestations; cosmetic considerations concerning underdeveloped and pendulous breasts; penicillin therapy for infectious mastitis; the criteria of operability and inoperability of mammary carcinoma; the relative merits of surgery and irradiation for this condition; the endocrine therapy of chronic cystic mastitis and on the etiology of mammary carcinoma. A number of new black and white text illustrations as well as two colored plates are included. The bibliographies have been brought up to date.

It is a source of satisfaction to the author that the major conclusions set forth in the first edition have received reiteration and additional support from work recently reported. The importance of radical mastectomy as the primary treatment for operable mammary carcinoma and of post-operative irradiation as a routine adjunct for cases in the operable group which have extended beyond the confines of the breast has been confirmed by the results reported from a number of large clinics. The incidence of carcinoma in chronic cystic mastitis (less than three per cent) has been supported by additional statistics and the importance of endocrine factors in the etiology of benign and malignant mammary neoplasms has been extensively confirmed.

C. F. G.

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I am indebted to Mr. Edward P. Walker for his painstaking care in furnishing the photographs used to illustrate the text, to Miss Leoda Danner for the microscopic preparations used, to Miss Nell Starkey for her assistance in conducting the experiments herein reported, and to Mildred Clark Geschickter for aid in preparing the index. I also wish to express to the publishers my appreciation of their consideration and efforts in completing this volume.

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THE AUTHOR

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