Radioactive Seed Localization Program for Patients With Nonpalpable Breast Lesions

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Purpose/Goal

To provide the learner with knowledge of best practices related to radioactive seed localization for patients with nonpalpable breast lesions.

Objectives

1. Discuss the incidence of breast cancer.
2. Describe current treatment options for breast cancer.
3. Discuss radiation precautions needed during radioactive seed implantation lumpectomy.

Accreditation

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Judy Burroughs, MSN, RN, CNOR; Jennifer L. Fencl, DNP, RN, CNS, CNOR; and Matthew C. Wakefield, MD, have no declared affiliations that could be perceived as posing potential conflicts of interest in the publication of this article.

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ABSTRACT

Without early diagnosis and treatment, many lives are lost to breast cancer. Increased breast cancer awareness has facilitated research to guide health care providers toward improving patient outcomes. Research in diagnostic and treatment modalities has expanded to focus on improving the quality of life for patients with breast cancer who are living longer than expected. Providers can offer patients with nonpalpable breast lesions new screening techniques and improved treatment options, including radioactive seed localization lumpectomy. This treatment offers patients the potential for decreased tumor re-excision for positive margins near the surgical site, a lower volume of excised breast tissue, decreased operative time, convenient surgical scheduling, and less pain. Additionally, radioactive seed localization lumpectomy can improve patient and staff member satisfaction. *AORN J* 105 *(June 2017) 593-604. © AORN, Inc, 2017. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aorn.2017.04.004*

Key words: *radioactive seed localization, lumpectomy, breast surgery, breast cancer.*

Breast cancer affects thousands of Americans each year and is the second-most diagnosed cancer among women in the United States, surpassed only by skin cancer.[1] Breast cancer also has the second-highest mortality rate for American women; lung cancer has the highest.[1] According to the most recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2013, more than 41,000 women and more than 400 men in the United States died from breast cancer.[2] Increased breast cancer awareness, early screening, and improved treatments, however, are believed to have contributed to a decline in breast cancer death rates since 1989.[1] The American Cancer Society reports that there are nearly three million breast cancer survivors in the United States.[1]

DIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGIES AND TREATMENT OPTIONS

Patients with breast cancer are living longer than ever before, and breast cancer research regarding diagnostic and treatment modalities has expanded to focus on decreasing morbidity. Patients have access to new screening techniques as well as improved treatment options. Although the rate of breast cancer diagnosis has increased, with more than 240,000 new cases expected in

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