

## Editorial

EXPAND »

## Management of Axillary Lymph Node Metastasis in Breast Cancer

### Making Progress

Grant Walter Carlson, MD; William C. Wood, MD

[+] Author Affiliations

*Since this article does not have an abstract, we have provided the first 150 words of the full text.*

**KEYWORDS:** axilla, breast neoplasms, lymph node excision, neoplasm metastasis, sentinel lymph node biopsy.

Less is more"—so goes the adage, and that certainly has been the case for breast cancer. Forty years ago, the standard treatment for this disease was the Halsted radical mastectomy, an aggressive operation that involved removal of not only the breast but also the adjacent musculature and axillary lymph nodes. Better understanding of breast cancer biology revealed that aggressive surgical therapy alone was inadequate. As treatment approaches evolved away from extensive surgery, axillary lymph node dissection (ALND) remained part of the treatment regimen to detect nodal disease. Axillary lymph node metastases were considered an indicator that systemic disease was present, identifying a need for chemotherapy.

Women with breast cancer have benefitted greatly from a series of carefully performed randomized controlled trials. Each successive trial showed that less surgery was better, in that outcomes were the same and less surgical intervention resulted in fewer surgical complications. In the first major study, ...

[Full Text of this Article]



What's this?

### Related Article

#### Axillary Dissection vs No Axillary Dissection in Women With Invasive Breast Cancer and Sentinel Node Metastasis: A Randomized Clinical Trial

Armando E. Giuliano, Kelly K. Hunt, Karla V. Ballman, Peter D. Beitsch, Pat W. Whitworth, Peter W. Blumencranz, A. Marilyn Leitch, Sukamal Saha, Linda M. McCall, Monica Morrow

*JAMA*. 2011;305(6):569-575.

doi:10.1001/jama.2011.90

[» Abstract](#) | [» Full Text](#) | [» Full Text \(PDF\)](#) | [» JAMA Report Video](#) | [» Author in the Room](#)

### Articles Citing This Article

#### Is Axillary Dissection Necessary in Breast Cancer Patients with Positive Sentinel Lymph Nodes?

*JWatch Oncology and Hematology*. 2011;2011(209):1.
[» Full Text](#)

### « Previous | Next Article » Table of Contents

#### This Article

*JAMA*. 2011;305(6):606-607.

doi: 10.1001/jama.2011.131

#### • Extract

[• Full Text](#)
[• Full Text \(PDF\)](#)

#### [–] SERVICES

[• E-mail this article to a colleague](#)
[• Alert me when this article is cited](#)
[• Alert me if a correction is posted](#)
[• Similar articles in this journal](#)
[• Similar articles in PubMed](#)
[• Add to My Folder](#)
[• Download to citation manager](#)
[• Permissions](#)

#### [+] RELATED CONTENT

#### [–] TOPIC COLLECTIONS

[• Oncology](#)
[• Breast Cancer](#)
[• Oncology, Other](#)
[• Alert me on articles by topic](#)

#### [+] CITING ARTICLES

#### [+] PUBMED

#### [+] GOOGLE SCHOLAR

#### [+] SOCIAL BOOKMARKING

### CURRENT ISSUE

March 23/30, 2011, Vol 305, No. 12, pp 1165-1256



#### [–] FEATURED ARTICLES

- Hydrocortisone for Patients With Multiple Trauma
- Sensitive Troponin Assay and Recurrent MI or Death
- Use of Fibrates in the United States and Canada
- Triggers of Acute Cardiac Events

#### [–] INFORMATION FOR

- Authors/Reviewers
- Readers
- Institutions/Libraries
- Subscription Agents
- News Media
- Job Seekers/Employers
- Advertisers

#### [+] JAMA & ARCHIVES JOURNALS

#### [+] RELATED SITES

#### Most Viewed Cited

1. Axillary Dissection vs No Axillary Dissection in Women With Invasive Breast Cancer and Sentinel Node Metastasis: A Randomized Clinical Trial
2. Prevalence and Trends in Obesity Among US Adults, 1999-2008
3. The "High" Risk of Energy Drinks
4. Bisphosphonate Use and the Risk of Subtrochanteric or Femoral Shaft Fractures in Older Women
5. Switching From Rosiglitazone: Thinking Outside the Class

[» View all Most Viewed articles](#)
More in *JAMA & Archives Journals* [«](#) [»](#)

#### AUTHOR IN THE ROOM



Monica Morrow, MD, will discuss axillary dissection in women with invasive breast cancer and sentinel node metastasis on 4/20/11, 2-3 PM ET. Click to register.

#### JAMA READERS RESPOND



What long-term treatment would you recommend to Ms W after her venous thromboembolism? Respond online by **April 3**. View Readers' Responses.

#### AUDIO COMMENTARY



Dr DeAngelis summarizes and comments on this week's issue.

#### AUTHOR INTERVIEW



Dr Detsky discusses changes in physician communication and how different types of communication should be used for different purposes.