Oncoplastic Surgery of the Breast consists of 13 chapters and 172 pages. It is edited by Maurice Nahabedian, one of the premier reconstructive breast surgeons in the United States. Several of the authors in the book are also leaders in the field of oncoplastic surgery. In the introductory chapter, Dr. Nahabedian discusses the development of oncoplastic surgery and provides an outline of the chapters to follow. These subsequent chapters guide the reader in a logical manner through the topics of oncological safety, patient selection, surgical techniques, and radiation therapy.

In terms of strengths and weaknesses, the chapter entitled “Oncoplastic Breast Conservation Surgery” is perhaps the best in the book. It is authored by Melvin Silverstein, who is one of the pioneers in oncoplastic surgery. It proceeds in a stepwise fashion through the planning and execution process for this technique. The next chapter, “Reduction Mammoplasty and Oncoplastic Surgery,” is authored by Bert Losken, also an authority in the field. It is well illustrated and provides good strategies on various volume displacement techniques.

The chapter addressing the safety and efficacy of oncoplastic surgery is short. It omits a great deal of data comparing the surgical margins after oncoplastic resection to those found with conventional techniques; this information could have benefited the reader. The chapter on patient selection is strong, but the algorithm presented is confusing and lacks adequate explanation in the body of the text.

The surgical options are described in great detail over the course of several chapters, from local flaps and reduction techniques involving volume displacement to the more complicated volume replacement techniques such as latissimus flaps, lateral thoracic flaps, and free flap reconstruction. The chapter on the lateral thoracic flap is a good introduction to a relatively new technique. Two chapters are devoted to free flap reconstruction of partial mastectomy defects; in my opinion, these could have been combined to make room for discussion of more common procedures. The chapter on nipple-sparing mastectomy provides an important background review of the use of this technique for both prophylaxis and treatment of breast cancer, but it would have benefitted from some illustrations and more detailed descriptions of the method.

The chapter on radiation therapy is a general discussion on its applications in breast cancer. There is a brief discussion on the effects of radiation on breast reconstruction, as well as reconstruction following recurrence after breast conservation. Dr. Nahabedian closes the book with a review of treatments for the opposite breast after oncoplastic surgery, including reduction and mastopexy. The book is accompanied by a DVD, which contains images from the book as well as video clips. These clips cover three operative procedures: a minimally-invasive latissimus dorsi flap reconstruction of a partial mastectomy defect, a superior-medial oncoplastic breast resection, and a delayed partial breast reconstruction with a pedicled TRAM flap. The quality of these videos is good, and they are instructive for those who have little experience with these procedures.

In summary, this book compares favorably with other books in the field. The attached DVD greatly adds to the educational value of the book. The major weaknesses of the book are the lack of illustrations; the quality of the patient photographs also leaves something to be desired. Overall, this book is well suited for surgeons interested in an introduction to the field of oncoplastic surgery.

Disclosures

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