

# PREMALIGNANT BREAST CONDITIONS

Essay

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of General Surgery

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# INTRODUCTION



## INTRODUCTION

A ten years report (1970-1981), from the National Cancer Institute, Cairo, showed that breast cancer is the most frequent malignancy among females attending the institute accounting for 34.7 % of all female cancer cases, and 14 % of all cases of cancer registered (*Ibrahim & Aref, 1982*).

In recent years, our knowledge of breast cancer has progressed rapidly resulting in new approaches and techniques in early detection and diagnosis, improved methods of treatment, prognosis and rehabilitation (*Omar et al., 1984*).

The rational management of breast disease carrying implications of heightened cancer risk begins with the demonstration of an increased percentage of likelihood of breast cancer in women with a history of specific breast lesions. Statements of breast cancer risk must be linked to histologic or other features, necessitating an anatomic definition associated with the risk statement (*Page & Dupont, 1990*).

Many human cancers do not arise directly from normal epithelium but are preceded by recognizable tissue abnormalities that are not

themselves malignant. The ability to recognize such lesions and to define their relationship to cancer is obviously of great importance and has a potential role in the study of disease etiology, in the identification of the individuals at increased risk of cancer and in the design of studies directed at the early detection or prevention of cancer.

Benign breast swellings are one of the frequent conditions met within the outpatient clinics of general surgery. Ladies affected are greatly distressed and fearful of the outcome of the diagnosis. When confronted with such cases, the general practitioner as well as the newly graduated surgeon feels greatly apprehensive; should a mutilating procedure such as mastectomy be planned or is an excisional biopsy enough. Although diagnosing the breast swellings as benign brings great comfort to the patient, the surgeon always keeps in mind that some types of benign breast swellings are liable to turn malignant and therefore, he is searching for an accurate investigative procedure beside the careful clinical examination in order to discover such cases.

By the introduction of the new techniques in the field of investigations such as CT scanning and MR imaging beside the other classical techniques the question of reaching a diagnosis of benign or

malignant swelling in the breast seems about to be answered.

In this essay, we will confirm our work on the female breast. We are going to mention the embryology of the breast, anatomy of the breast, both macroscopic and microscopic, physiology of the breast as well as the classification of the different types of benign breast swellings from the pathological point of view in order to clarify certain benign breast swellings that are said to be premalignant and the incidence of their transformation into malignant tumours together with their diagnostic approach through both clinical examination and special investigative techniques and discussing the proper management.

