

Breast Cancer Treatment: Past, Present and the Future

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Despite a remarkable increase in the depth of our understanding and management of Breast Cancer in the past 50 years, the road is still long and winding posing significant challenges. The increased incidence and **awareness** of breast cancer has led to significant changes in diagnosis and treatment in recent decades.

The earliest description of Breast Cancer dates back to around 3500 B.C.E. For centuries thereafter the theories of the great Greek Physician like Hippocrates in 460 BCE and Galen in 200 BCE attributing the cause of Breast Cancer to an “excess of black bile” and treatment options like use of opium and castor oil, prevailed. The role of surgery was advocated around middle of 18th century and thereafter the advent of modern medicine in form of novel drugs and targeted therapies surfaced into clinical practice based on evidence.

Management of Breast Cancer is multidisciplinary. It includes loco-regional (surgery and Radiation therapy) and systemic therapy approach. The systemic therapy include endocrine therapy for hormone receptor positive disease, chemotherapy, Anti Her2 therapy for Her2 positive disease, bone stabilizing agents, Polymerase inhibitors for BRCA mutation carriers and quite recently immunotherapy. However no targeted drug has been approved for Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC). TNBC is a heterogeneous subgroup of Breast Cancer, and molecular subtyping may help drug discovery for this deadly disease.

Future therapeutic concept in Breast Cancer aim at personalised therapy as well as treatment de escalation and escalation based on tumor biology and early therapy response. Next to further treatment innovation, equal worldwide access to therapeutic advances remain a global challenge in Breast Cancer care for the future.

Biography:

I Prasenjit Chatterjee, did my formal training in Radiation Oncology from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India in 1997 and thereafter pursuing my career in oncology for last 23 years. My special interest is in head & neck, Lung and Breast cancer. I am member of many national and International Organisations like ASCO, ESTRO, MASCC and IALC, and in the executive committee of national associations like AROI(WB), Oncological society of Bengal. I have been honoured with BHARAT JYOTI Award. (www.drprasenjitchatterjee)