

**BCCA Annual Conference
Controversies in Breast Cancer Care for the Surgeon
November 27, 2004**

Test Answers and Discussion

1. Which of the following statements are true regarding the value of axillary node dissection (ALND)?
- a) ALND stages the disease to determine prognosis
 - b) ALND improves local control
 - c) ALND provides information regarding the need for adjuvant therapy
 - d) ALND improves survival

The answer is C: a, b, c and d

2. Which one of the following is not a contraindication to sentinel node biopsy?

- A. Multifocal breast cancer
- B. Prior breast surgery
- C. Palpable lymphadenopathy
- D. Locally advanced breast cancer
- E. Palpable noninvasive cancer
- U. Uncertain

The answer is E or U. The answer is controversial as per Dr. Latosinsky's presentation, but standard recommendation would exclude A, B, C and D.

3. True or False. The risk of leaving undetected axillary disease following a negative SLNB is equal to:

(the preoperative metastatic probability rate of the tumour) X (surgeon's false negative rate)

The statement is True.

4. Which one of the following is not associated with an increased risk of nodal involvement?

The answer is C: ER negative status.

5. The false negative rate is defined as which one of the following (FN = false negative, FP = false positive, TN = true negative, TP = true positive)?

The answer is A: FN/(TP+FN).

6. The axillary recurrence rate following standard node dissection and adjuvant therapy is which one of the following?

The answer is A: 1 – 3 percent.

7. The "Clinical False Negative Rate" associated with sentinel lymph node biopsy refers to which one of the following?

The answer is C: The percent of patients undergoing SLNB who develop an axillary recurrence following a negative sentinel node biopsy.

8. True or False: Most patients who have an axillary recurrence will have operable disease.

The statement is False.

9. True or False: Overall survival rates following axillary recurrence are generally less than for patients who have node positive disease at initial presentation.
The statement is True.
10. True or False: The average time to axillary recurrence is less than 5 years.
The statement is False.
11. True or False: Sentinel node mapping has an equivalent failure rate to axillary node dissection.
The statement is True.
12. True or False: Axillary radiation following Level I/II dissection does not reduce the rate of axillary recurrence.
The statement is False.
13. Which one of the following is false regarding the diagnosis of breast cancer during pregnancy?
The answer is B: Mammography is contraindicated during pregnancy.
14. Which one of the following is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer?
The answer is D: Epithelial hyperplasia without atypia. Though the relative risk increase is smaller than hyperplasia with atypia, there is still an increased risk.
15. The relative risk of developing breast cancer with atypical hyperplasia is which one of the following?
The answer is B: 5 – 10 X.
16. A woman undergoes a stereotactic core biopsy for indeterminate calcifications seen on mammogram. The pathology report states there are calcifications associated with sclerosing adenosis with minor atypia. This should be managed by which one of the following?
The answer is B: Excisional biopsy. This is because of the possibility of sampling error with the core biopsy.
17. True or False: Tamoxifen treatment for 5 years has been shown to decrease the incidence of subsequent breast cancer diagnosis in women with atypical hyperplasia.
This statement is True.
18. True or False: Breast cancer in the elderly is a less aggressive disease stage for stage.
This statement is False.
19. True or False: If insufficiently treated, elderly women suffer unnecessary morbidity from breast cancer.
This statement is True.
20. Which one of the following does not contribute to the development of breast edema following partial mastectomy?
The answer is D: Underwire bras.

21. Seroma formation and prolonged excessive drainage of serous fluid occur in what percentage of patients following MRM?
The answer is D: 20.
22. Which one of the following does not increase the risk of flap necrosis in mastectomy patients?
The answer is D: Age.
23. Which of the following are effective methods to reduce the incidence of postoperative lymphedema?
The answer is D: None of the above. While massage has therapeutic value in treating lymphedema, it does not prevent (reduce the incidence).
24. Which one of the following is false regarding the axillary bands seen in axillary web syndrome?
The answer is D: They do not occur after sentinel node biopsy.
25. True or False: I would prefer not to do pre and post tests at these courses.
**Two thirds of those who responded said this statement was True.
One third said this statement was False.**