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Pathology of premalignant breast disease

During the last several years, increased public awareness, advances in breast imaging and enhanced screening programs have led to early breast cancer detection and attention to cancer prevention. The numbers of image-detected biopsies have increased and pathologists are expected to provide more information with smaller tissue samples. These biopsies have resulted in detection of increasing numbers of high-risk proliferative breast disease and in situ cancers. The general hypothesis is that some forms of breast cancers may arise from established forms of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) and atypical ductal hyperplasia (ADH) and possibly from more common forms of ductal hyperplasia. However, this is an oversimplification of a very complex process, given the fact that the majority of breast cancers appears to arise *de-novo* or from a yet unknown precursor lesion. Currently, ADH and DCIS are considered as morphologic risk factors and precursor lesions for breast cancer. However, morphologic distinction between these two entities has remained a real issue that continues to lead to over diagnosis and overtreatment. Aside from morphologic

similarities between ADH and low grade DCIS, biomarker studies and molecular genetic testing's have shown that morphologic overlaps are reflected at the molecular levels and raise questions about the validity of separating these two entities. It is hoped that as we better understand the genetic basis of these entities in relation to ultimate patient outcome, the suggested use of the term of borderline breast disease can minimize the number of patients who are subject to overtreatment.

Speaker Biography

Shahla Masood is a Persian-born physician, who currently holds the positions of Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology at University of Florida College of Medicine. She is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Breast Journal, the founder and past president of the "International Society of Breast Pathology," the Director of the "Annual Multidisciplinary Symposium on Breast Disease", "The Breast Cancer Public Forum", and is currently the President of "The World Society for Breast Health." She has been named as one of the Top Doctors in America and one of the 20 Top Professors in Oncology at an international level. Dr. Masood is a patient advocate, a partner in community affairs and an accomplished artist and gourmet chef.

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