

# RADIATION OR MASTECTOMY: TIME FOR A THIRD OPTION?

## Background

### SAVE YOUR BREAST? THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

Multiple factors influence patient's decisions when choosing a treatment for their breast cancer. Standard treatment today includes radiation therapy if breast conservation is chosen. Total mastectomy is the standard treatment recommendation if radiation is refused or not available. At present there is no radiation alternative for patients who opt for breast conservation but not radiation therapy. Our aim was to assess whether another technology could integrate into the current workflow, with a cost improvement and greater access to the underserved.



What we thought...  
**Larger and academic hospitals adopt quicker**



What we learned...  
**Community hospitals have an immediate need and adopt quicker**

## Two Surveys Were Conducted

**1<sup>st</sup>**

An online survey included 26 women recently diagnosed with early stage breast cancer [February thru August 2021].

### RESULTS

All patients were clinically eligible for breast conserving surgery followed by radiotherapy. The survey demonstrated a strong desire to avoid radiation therapy if possible; even to the extent of having to pay out of pocket for an alternative. The major reasons for avoidance were fear, side effects, pain and fatigue.

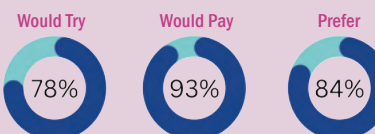
**2<sup>nd</sup>**

In person interviews were conducted with various members of the multidisciplinary teams from 29 US Breast Cancer Centers conducted in April 2023.

### RESULTS

Twenty-nine clinicians including breast surgical, medical and radiation oncologists were interviewed regarding the present barriers to breast conserving surgery preventing greater adoption across certain markets and demographics. The results indicated that approximately 28% of patients who were offered breast conserving surgery with radiotherapy chose mastectomy. The majority of these women were African American, Hispanic, or Asian. Reasons cited included cost of radiotherapy, radiation being unavailable, travel requirements, and inability to miss work.

### IF AN ALTERNATIVE TO RADIATION WAS AVAILABLE



Patient Category	Large or Academic Hospital	Community Hospital
Refuse Radiation	X	X
Patient Over 70 y/o		X
Live Over 25 Miles Away	X	X
Can't Take Off		X
Low Risk		X
FACILITIES THAT OFFERED RADIATION WERE LESS LIKELY TO INCORPORATE A NEW TECHNOLOGY		

## Conclusions

1. A technology to deliver a similar therapeutic effect as radiotherapy without the cost and side effects inherent with its use.
2. A breast conserving solution deliverable at the local hospital level free of the cost and access restraints of radiotherapy.
3. The solution must be deliverable by local surgeons at an affordable cost.
4. Most importantly, this technology must be accessible regardless of socioeconomic and geographic disparities prevalent both here in the United States and in lesser developed societies worldwide.
5. Lastly, our data suggest that adoption of such a treatment option will occur quickly where the need is greatest, such as community hospitals in underserved areas.



**I WANT TO KEEP MY BREASTS!**

An alternative technology meeting all these needs is currently being developed by **SenoGuard**. For more information contact [diana@senoguard.com](mailto:diana@senoguard.com)

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