

The field of breast cancer surgery has undergone a remarkable transformation, from a one-size-fits-all approach based on anatomy to a trend of de-escalation of surgical management with a highly personalized multidisciplinary strategy. Advances in systemic therapies, imaging, and our understanding of tumor biology have led to our ability to tailor interventions with the goal of balancing oncologic safety with quality of life on an individualized level.

This presentation will trace the evolution of surgical care from mastectomy to breast conserving therapy and the adoption of sentinel lymph node biopsy over axillary dissection. It will explore the landmark clinical trials that have provided the practice changing shifts and highlight how tumor biology has contributed to the development of guidelines and decision making for surgical management of breast cancer. Looking ahead, we can recognize and build on these milestones to design clinical trials that incorporate biomarkers and meaningful endpoints. This presentation will underscore the role of the surgeon as part of the multidisciplinary team working to redefine the future of breast cancer care.