Breast Cancer Treatment Options

**Medical Oncology** — Chemotherapy treatments use medicine to weaken and destroy cancer cells in the body. Chemotherapy, often called “chemo”, is a systemic therapy that affects the whole body. Chemotherapy can be used for patients with early-stage and advanced stage breast cancer.

**Radiation Oncology** — Radiation therapy uses high-energy rays to kill cancer cells that remain after surgery. Radiation therapy affects the cells only in the part of the body being treated. Radiation therapy is an effective way to reduce the risk of breast cancer recurrence after surgery.

**Surgery** is often used in the treatment of breast cancer. The goal of surgery is to remove the tumors and any affected tissue.

**Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy** — A sentinel lymph node biopsy is a procedure in which the sentinel lymph node is identified, removed and examined. The sentinel nodes are the first lymph nodes to which cancer would spread. This biopsy is done to determine if cancer cells have spread from the tumor to nearby lymph nodes.

**Lumpectomy** — Removal of the breast cancer and some normal tissue around it. Often, some of the lymph nodes under the arm are also removed. This is also referred to as breast conservation surgery.

**Mastectomy** — Removal of the breast, or as much of the breast tissue as possible. If the surgeon removes some lymph nodes for biopsy, it is done with a separate incision.

**Breast Reconstruction** — Various methods can be used in breast reconstruction surgery. Many women chose to have a consultation with a reconstructive surgeon to discuss options. If you choose reconstruction, your surgeon will review the different techniques available and together determine the appropriate treatment plan for you.

Breast reconstruction is an elective procedure; however, many insurance companies will cover the cost of the surgery. Each case is unique and we are available to guide you throughout your reconstruction process.

**Clinical Trials** — Research studies in which patients agree to try new therapies, techniques, technologies to help doctors identify the best treatments with the fewest side effects. If interested in clinical trials, please speak with your doctor.