



ASO Author Reflections: The American Society of Breast Surgeons Definition of Oncoplastic Surgery

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PAST

Interest in oncoplastic surgery is increasing among breast surgeons.¹ Based on a comprehensive literature review, several definitions exist for oncoplastic surgery,² confusing breast surgeons, surgical trainees, and patients with regard to the exact meaning of the term ‘oncoplastic surgery’. Additionally, some of these definitions contradict each other. The goal of our article³ was to create a consensus definition and classification system for oncoplastic surgery that could be best clinically applied when discussing surgical options with patients or training students.

PRESENT

The American Society of Breast Surgeons consensus definition of oncoplastic surgery is “A form of breast-conservation surgery that includes oncologic resection with a partial mastectomy, ipsilateral reconstruction using volume displacement or volume replacement techniques with possible contralateral symmetry surgery when appropriate”.³ The classification system further divided oncoplastic surgery into Level 1 and Level 2 volume displacement operations in addition to volume replacement operations for the appropriately sized breast partial mastectomy

defects. This definition and classification system was perceived as the most inclusive, and simple to teach and explain, making it clinically applicable for patient care and education.

FUTURE

Using this definition and classification system, a common language can be used among breast surgeons practicing oncoplastic surgery with regard to explaining the oncoplastic operation of choice to their patients and with regard to training students interested in learning oncoplastic surgery.

DISCLOSURE The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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