

Breast Thermography Is a Noninvasive Prognostic Procedure That Predicts Tumor Growth Rate in Breast Cancer Patients

JONATHAN F. HEAD, FEN WANG,
AND ROBERT L. ELLIOTT

*The Elliott Mastology Center
1770 Physicians Park Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816*

INTRODUCTION

The Breast Cancer Detection and Demonstration Projects (BCDDP) that were carried out by the American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute (USA) between 1973 and 1981 evaluated breast thermography as a diagnostic procedure for breast cancer. From the results of the BCDDP study the American Radiology Society concluded that thermography was ineffective as a diagnostic procedure in breast cancer. However, with the abandonment of breast thermography in the United States further large-scale studies to determine its value in predicting the risk of breast cancer and as a prognostic indicator were not pursued. This study demonstrates the prognostic significance of breast thermography for the breast cancer patient and further relates the thermal characteristics of the breast to the growth rate of the breast cancer patient's tumor.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two groups of patients were chosen to do the two parts of this study. The first group consisted of 126 deceased breast cancer patients (all women who had died of causes other than breast cancer were eliminated from the study), 100 randomly selected surviving breast cancer patients, and 100 randomly selected normal or noncancer patients, all of whom had undergone breast thermography in conjunction with mammography and clinical examination as part of their breast examination at The Elliott Mastology Center since 1973. The second group consisted of breast cancer patients that had thermography,