This publication is dedicated to the sentinel node (SN) procedure in breast cancer, and more specifically to the treatment of patients in whom isolated tumor cells or micro metastases are detected. The sentinel node procedure is based on the premise that if the first node the breast tissue drains into is clean, the remaining axillary lymph nodes are not likely to be involved and their removal will not be necessary. The introduction of this procedure during the 1990s meant a reduction in overtreatment for many patients, and therefore a reduction in morbidities such as lymph edema and shoulder dysfunction. There have been some concerns, however, which have led to an intensified SN pathology protocol, and an increase in the detection frequency of small nodal metastases, together with questions about whether the presence of isolated tumor cells or micro metastases is associated with overall breast cancer outcomes. These concerns mean that the SN procedure is still the subject of much research and discussion, with the results of a number of randomized studies expected within the next few years.

This book is a collection of six published studies related to the prediction of non-SN involvement. These studies show that not only the size of SN involvement, but also primary tumor characteristics play a role and that it is of pivotal importance to estimate non-SN involvement for each individual patient. By providing an overview of current evidence, this book will be supportive in making the best decision in current patient care.
Contents:

Pathology Issues Related to SN Procedures and Increased Detection of Micrometastases and Isolated Tumor Cells
P.J. van Diest, C.H.M. van Deurzen and G. Cserni

Axillary Recurrences Following Positive Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy with Individual Tumor Cells or Micrometastases and No Axillary Dissection
K.M. Erb, H.M. Shapiro-Wright and T.B. Julian

Can Radiotherapy Replace Axillary Dissection for Patients with Positive Sentinel Nodes?
A. Recht

Prediction of Non-SN Involvement in Patients with SN Isolated Tumor Cells or Micrometastases
C. Pesce, C. Balch and L. Jacobs

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