



May 2012

St. Luke's Cancer Connection is committed to improving the level of cancer care in the greater Lehigh Valley and surrounding communities.

St. Luke's Cancer Centers:

1600 Riverside Circle
Easton, PA 18045

801 Ostrum Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015

240 Cetronia Road
Allentown, PA 18014

Learn why healing begins at St. Luke's Cancer Center. Call St. Luke's InfoLink toll-free at 1-866-STLUKES (785-8537).

When the Diagnosis is Breast Cancer

By Lee B. Riley, MD, PhD, FACS,

Medical Director, St. Luke's Oncology Services

Understandably, most women, when diagnosed with breast cancer, want to have it removed as soon as possible. However, in contrast to the past, there are now several questions, studies and treatments that may need to be done prior to surgery. Omitting or overlooking these steps may compromise patient care. While each of these steps may appear small or insignificant, they are like compound interest; each step builds on the last one and the end result can be a very significant improvement in survival. To accomplish this, you need a team of professionals including radiologists, pathologists, genetic counselors, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and surgeons.



The majority of newly diagnosed women with breast cancer are told "you need to see a surgeon." But not all surgeons are the same. Patients should be aware that there are specialized fellowships and societies dedicated to cancer and breast surgery. Not surprisingly, studies have shown that the best-trained, educated and experienced surgeons provide the best chance for winning the fight against breast cancer.

In every field of medicine specialization makes a difference – cancer surgery is not an exception.

Over the last several decades, our understanding of cancer has dramatically increased and the techniques to treat cancer have become increasingly complex. In order to provide the necessary education and training in cancer surgery, specialized fellowship programs were created. Both the Society of Surgical Oncology and the American Society of Breast Surgeons created fellowship programs to provide these specialized surgeons.

St. Luke's is proud to host the region's largest and most experienced group of fellowship trained surgeons that take care of breast cancer. This surgical expertise combined with unsurpassed technology and a complementary team of radiologists, pathologists, medical oncologists and radiation oncologists provide the region with the best care possible.