

## OVERVIEW

### Mammographic and Cytologic Diagnosis of Premalignant Lesions of the Breast

Two of the speakers (Dr. Edward J. Wilkinson and the Chairman) addressed the issue of the utility of aspiration biopsy techniques in the diagnosis of small mammary carcinomas, preferably still confined to the ducts or lobules of origin (intraductal and lobular carcinomas *in situ*). Current experience with cytologic diagnosis of such tumors is limited. The option of utilizing multiple cytologic samples as a follow-up technique in patients undergoing chemoprevention trials was discussed. The effectiveness of cytologic techniques in the diagnosis of mammographically detected carcinomas was also discussed.

The third speaker, Dr. Daniel Kopans, directed most of his remarks to document the value of mammographic screening in women younger than 50 years of age. He presented a persuasive argument in

favor of such screening. Dr. Kopans briefly touched on the beneficial effects of mammography in older women. In the course of the discussion, the failure rate of mammography in discovering breast cancer in women of all ages was placed at a minimum of 15%, the figure being higher for the women with palpable breast cancers.

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