

Shri Madanmohan Ramanlal GCRI Luminary Oration Award - 2022

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My Journey through Onco Domains and Journey of Breast Cancer - Paths Well Tread

When as 1st year resident in general surgery, dealing with lumps and bumps in abdomen, fantabulous appendix, hernia, trauma care, ear repairs, impossible passage of bladder necks at mid nights and early dawns, dressing of burns for hours at length-----and then 2nd year residency in GCRI, and hell let loose. Had to face dismal depressive atmosphere and had to work tirelessly. Oncosurgery was not my choice in male dominated field- but carried on and it became passion.

Those were late 70s where oncology did not see changes in treatment that frequently as today and now there is tremendous progress with newer treatment modalities. Those were the days in oncology which was same world over and now these are the days we have metamorphosed to passionate surgical oncologists, whatever were the challenges always feeling proud of GCRI to have groomed us. That is my journey.

I have witnessed

- most radical ablations to organ preservation
- cobalt, caesium, thorastone radiotherapy sources to proton beam units
- preventive oncology
- personalised medicines

But as a surgeon, the most captivating changes is in breast oncology.

Breast screening has given mortality benefits as shown by Swedish 2 country trial in 1980 where reduction in mortality is by 25-40%.

The salient features of breast screening are:

1. Optimising organisation of screening which has to be quality oriented and cost effective
2. Setting targets for quality management
3. Optimising interpretation of mammography
4. Setting optimal screening intervals to pick up early interval cases

The advancement in mammography has come up from digital mammography to **D**igital **B**reast **T**omography (DBT), **C**ontrast **E**nhanced **S**pectral **M**ammography (CESM) and breast MRI. Recommendations come through need for individual patient.

Hence breast cancer detection and treatment has seen vast rapid changes from 1980 onwards.

My journey continues.

