



October, 2007

SPECIAL REPORT | GLOBAL BREAST CANCER

Breast-Cancer Basics. Diagnosis and treatment keep changing. Here's what you need to know now

BY ALICE PARK

TREATMENT

Targeting Breast Tumors with Seeds

The goal of any cancer treatment is to clear away malignant cells while leaving the remaining cellular landscape as intact as possible. MammoSite, a five-day, seed-based therapy, does that by directing radiation at only cancer-rich regions of the breast. After surgically removing cancerous growth, doctors insert a balloon with a catheter into the cavity left behind by the tumor. They can then thread radioactive seeds into the balloon to zap away any residual cancer cells.

Results

NO MORE TUMORS After five years, women treated with MammoSite showed no recurrent growths in their breasts.

A FRESH CHOICE Women who thought mastectomy was preferable to the traditional six weeks of radiation now have a new option.

