

PROPOSITIONS BELONGING TO THE THESIS

TYING A SURGICAL KNOT IN BREAST CANCER OUTCOMES

1. Breast surgeons should protect patients quality of life and safeguard the cosmetic outcome even though patients think it is irrelevant at the time of breast cancer diagnosis. *(this thesis)*
2. Using pre-operative MRI in all breast cancer patients may seem good quality of care, but it does more harm than good. *(this thesis)*
3. The Dutch accept focally positive margins after breast conserving surgery while the world performs reexcisions. Whether called conservative or progressive is an issue of politics, but it is safe and “the crazy Dutch” are right. *(this thesis)*
4. Previously, hospital performance reports of “irradical breast conserving surgery” improved quality of care and reduced irradicality rates. The current low number of events increases statistical uncertainty causing lack of reliability for benchmarking. *(this thesis)*
5. After adjustment for case-mix and statistical uncertainty, which part of the then still existing hospital variation represents true differences in quality of care remains uncertain. *(this thesis)*
6. One threat to the de-escalation of surgery is patient acceptance. To fully realize the potential of de-escalating surgery, we must develop new communication strategies to convince patients that bigger is not necessarily better. *(Morrow M. Breast. 2017 Aug;34 Suppl 1:S1-S4.)*
7. More variation in clinical outcomes is associated with doctors than with hospitals. *(Gutacker N et al. Health Policy. 2018 Jun;122(6):660-666.)*
8. It takes a lot of effort before patients as well as physicians are familiar with new treatment insights. *(Vos CJ et al. Br J Gen Pract. 2007 Jan;57(534):23-8.)*
9. We hold ourselves back in ways both big and small, by lacking self-confidence, by not raising our hands, and by pulling back when we should be leaning in. *(Sheryl Sandberg)*
10. Kickboxing and Ballet; these seemingly incompatible sports are actually the perfect pair. Both require agility, balance, coordination, flexibility and strength.
11. Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing *(Theodore Roosevelt)*

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