

Mayo Clinic Minute: Why some patients with breast tumors could possibly avoid a mastectomy

VIDEO	AUDIO
	Dr. Judy Boughey knows that choices are important for her cancer patients.
	"Patients are interested in having all of the options open to them."
	Historically, patients with two or more tumors in one breast had to undergo a mastectomy. But that protocol could soon be a thing of the past thanks to advances in breast cancer management.
Judy Boughey, M.D. Surgical Oncology Mayo Clinic	"Recent studies have shown that, for patients that do have two sites or three sites of disease within the breast, that breast conservation may be acceptable and may have acceptable risks of local recurrence."
	Patients now have another option to consider when it comes to their treatment plan. Surgeons can remove several sites of diseased tissue by performing breast-conserving lumpectomies instead of removing the entire breast with a mastectomy.
	"It's a shorter procedure. It's a quicker recovery, and you can get on to your next course of therapy, in terms of systemic therapy and/or radiation quicker."
	Dr. Boughey says the biggest advantage is that patients get to keep their breast.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.