

## P R E F A C E

Malignant tumors of breast are relatively easily detectable. Majority of tumors may be detected by a nonexpensive method as breast self examination, yet their complex biologic behaviour astound science. As a consequence, the morbidity and mortality due to this disease is steadily increasing. Greater numbers of breast tumors in Gujarat are detected at late stages chiefly due to social set-up.

At the Endocrinology Division, we started work on estrogen- and progesterone- receptors in late 1983's. Gradually, we realized the intricacy with prognostication and monitoring in advanced breast cancers and thought it worthy to work with it which emerged into the presentation of this thesis.

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