

Forms of Tumors

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Definition

The classifications refer to the impression of shape given from the whole image of a tumor. Tumors are assessed for classification by their cross sections.

a. Round / oval



b. Polygonal



c. Lobulated



d. Irregular



FIG. 1. Classification

Explanation

Tumor forms are used to describe tumor shapes casually. When doing so, tumor marginal properties may be ignored. When it comes to each type of item, they can be defined by presence of “constriction” and “angularity.” Let the terms constriction and

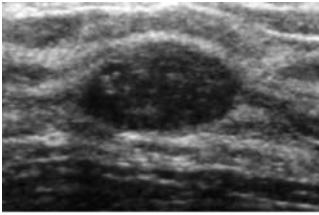
TABLE 1. Definitions of shape

| Shape | Constriction | Angularity |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Round / oval | - | - |
| Polygonal | - | + |
| Lobulated | + | - |
| Irregular | + | + |

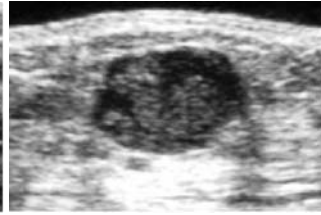
angularity (Table 1) be used when a tumor has remarkable discontinuous changes in its shape: the former means convex or indented characteristics, the latter indicates concave or projecting characteristics. Even if the impression of shape given from the whole tumor only depends on the observer’s subjectivity, judging must be more objective referring to a criterion. Even malignancy can sometimes show a round or oval shape while benignity can sometimes appear irregular.

Criteria by Ultrasonography

Oval



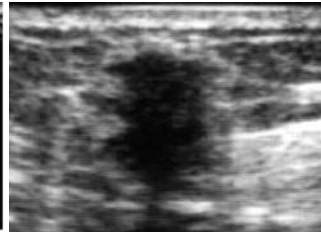
Polygonal



Lobulated



Irregular



Notes:

1. With intracystic lesions, the forms of intracystic lesion are mentioned as well as cyst.
2. Judgment should include no forms of intramammary-ductal lesion extending outside the tumor.