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“Breast Cancer Surgery and Reconstruction: What’s Right for You,” coming June 16, is a new book about one of the least-addressed issues women about breast cancer: the surgery nearly all women have and the reconstruction choices they face.

Despite widespread awareness of breast cancer, much less is known about a woman’s surgery choices, which can have life-time consequences; may be costly and time-consuming; and may alter a woman’s sex life and well-being.

“This is an important women’s health issue that just hasn’t gotten the attention it needs,” said Patricia Anstett, author of “Breast Cancer Surgery and Reconstruction: What’s Right for You,” to be published by Rowman & Littlefield. “Many misconceptions remain, including the impression that most women emerge from a single surgery with new breasts,” she said.

“That’s just not the case. Several surgeries are more common to complete most breast reconstruction and complications can occur any time along the way. And many women may get breasts better than they had, but they feel and move differently and often give them no sexual sensation. These are important issues women need to know about. Too many don’t.”

The book, one of only a few written about breast cancer surgery options, features moving photos of women by Emmy-award-winning photographer Kathleen Galligan. Galligan was diagnosed with breast cancer three months after beginning work on the project; she wrote the lumpectomy chapter of the book.

The book covers a wide range of issues, including the choice between lumpectomy and mastectomy; living flat-breasted or one-breasted, without reconstruction; and reconstruction breakthroughs of the last decade, including nipple-sparing mastectomy and tissue-based breast reconstruction. Anstett visited top centers to observe cutting-edge techniques and see how model programs operate.

In the next year, she plans programs about breast cancer surgery and reconstruction with cancer centers and others. The programs often are organized in a town-hall format with breast cancer survivors and medical experts fielding questions from Anstett and the audience.

Contact Pat Anstett for an interview, conference or program opportunities at panstett47@gmail.com; 313-980-1071.

The book’s web site, bcsurgerystories.com, features photos, lengthier descriptions of the book and author/photographer bios.