KNOWLEDGE ON BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY. DATING FROM ANCIENT GREEK UNTIL THE MIDDLE AGES
S. Dimitrakopoulos  B. Karmi  S. Kolliantzaki  F. Plevrria  A. Sidiropoulou  I. Mavropoulos  A. Bonas  E.
Papageorgiou  G. Asbestopoulou  N. Asbestopoulos
Obstetrics-Gynecology clinic, "Andreas Papandreou" Hospital of Pyrgos, Pyrgos, Greece

Aim: The study and record of the level of knowledge for the disease from antiquity until the middle Ages. Material-Method: Our material emanates from historical sources of the Greek and foreign bibliography/literature. Results: The Cretes are aware of the breast diseases (it occurs from oblations and figurines). The Amazons are driven in unilateral mastectomy of the left breast so that they can keep the shield and be flexible in the battle. Herodotus mentions that Dimokodous, a doctor and philosopher, cures Darius’s wife named Atossa who suffered from “tuber/carcinoma in the breast” i.e. / meaning breast cancer. He said “in the breast there was a carcinoma which was further spread after being broken down”. In his project “For the diseases”, Hippocrates mentions, “in women from Abdira a carcinoma was born in the breast. It was like this; hot blood flew from the udder and whoever tried to stop the flow, died”. He talks about a female from Abdira that bled from the udder/there and died when it stopped. That was the first scientific point/report about/on the disease. Aristotles gives evidence/data for the disease too. Galinus mentions, “a carcinoma is a malign and hard tumor all over, either with wound or without”. In the Greek and Roman times, Celsius mentions mastectomy as a cure for breast cancer. Archigenes carried out surgeries in breast cancers not though in cases of advanced stages because he believed that in such a way the regression of the disease was unavoidable. Archigenes was a distinguished doctor that operated surgeries of breast cancer. Metrodora in her project describes the disease too. In the middle ages Aetius describes mastectomy and Paul from Aegina suggests mastectomy without cauterization. Conclusion: From Archaic till the Byzantine times a great amount of information on the disease is produced, which sat the foundation for the progress of modern medicinal/corrective treatment.