

# Use of breast conservation surgery for cancer decreases; high-rate of reoperation

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In a study published online by *JAMA Surgery*, Art Sedrakyan, M.D., Ph.D., of Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, and colleagues examined the use of breast conservation surgery (BCS) in New York State and determined rates of reoperation, procedure choice, and the effect of surgeon experience on the odds of a reoperation 90 days after BCS.

The study included from New York State mandatory reporting databases a population-based sample of 89,448 women undergoing primary BCS for cancer who were examined from January 2003 to December 2013. All hospitals and ambulatory [surgery](#) centers in New York State were included.

The researchers found that the use of BCS decreased overall, most steeply in younger women. Nearly 1 in 4 [women](#) underwent a reoperation within 90 days of BCS from 2011 to 2013, which is reduced compared with 2 in 5 observed in 2003 to 2004.

Reoperation rates varied significantly by surgeon from 0 percent to 100 percent, and initial BCS procedures performed by low-volume [surgeons](#) were associated with a 50 percent higher risk for a reoperation when compared with the highest-volume surgeons; initial BCS performed by high-volume surgeons was associated with a 33 percent lower risk for a reoperation.

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