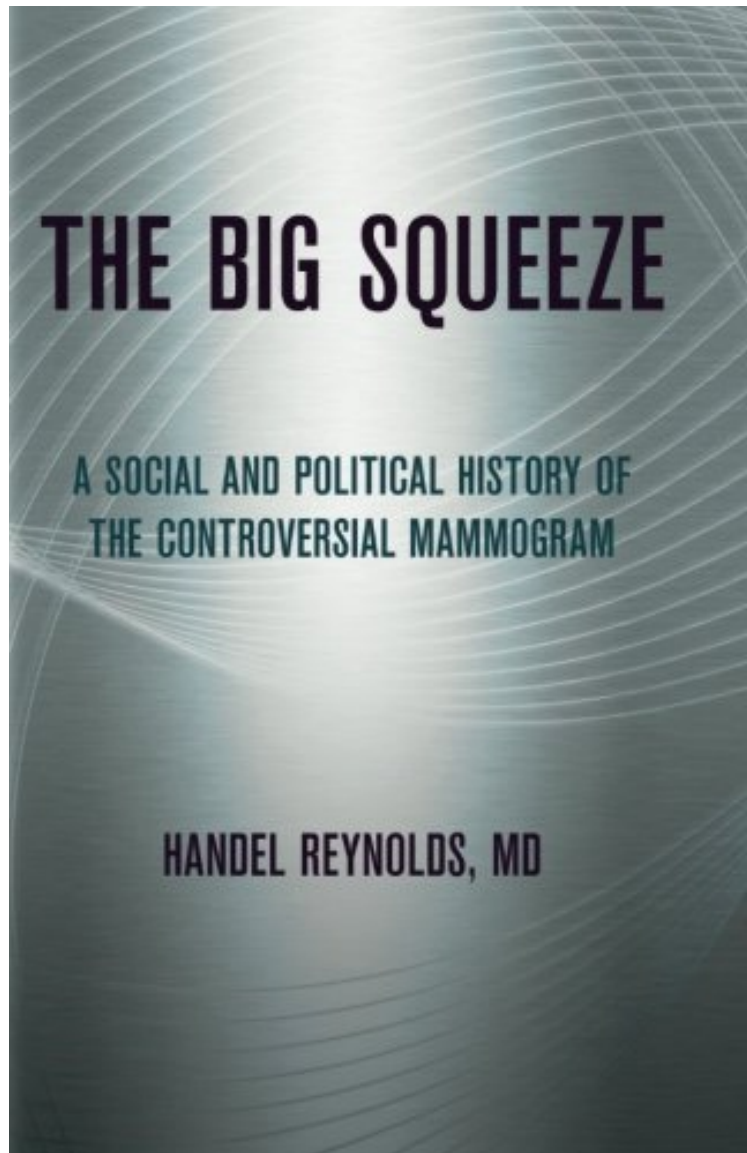



[Mobile ebook] The Big Squeeze: A Social and Political History of the Controversial Mammogram (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)


The Big Squeeze: A Social and Political History of the Controversial Mammogram (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)

Dr. Handel Reynolds

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Dr. Handel Reynolds : The Big Squeeze: A Social and Political History of the Controversial Mammogram (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Big Squeeze: A Social and Political History of the Controversial Mammogram (The

Culture and Politics of Health Care Work):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A totally unbiased book written by a doctor! Wow! By Luds Before writing my own review of Dr. Handel Reynolds' book, I paused to read the first two reviews. I found it amusing that one gave the book 5 stars and the other gave it 1 star. It is clear to me that the 1 star rating was given by someone who could not have read this book. Dr. Reynolds obviously went to great lengths to research the material he used in his book. As a Registered Nurse and a part of the medical community, I quickly recognized that the historical and political backdrop as to how screening mammography gained its ascendancy was not a part of my previous knowledge base. The information provided was that done by a researcher and while mind boggling, it was informative. As I continued to read I was able to peer into the heart and mind of Dr. Reynolds. I saw where-in his interest lie. His desire is to inform women ages 40-49 of the pros and cons, risks and benefits and the "real deal" of doing a screening mammogram. I fall in that age range. I bought into the politics when I was told at 35 that I was at the age to get a baseline. At 40, I was again duped into believing that I had to have it yearly thereafter. Amazingly, Dr. Reynolds, being affiliated with the American College of Radiology and practicing as a breast radiologist, must have taken a giant leap of faith to write this insightful book. In some areas he actually wrote scathingly about the organization to which he is a part of. I applaud him for being willing to buck the system and force it to become transparent with the public it is designed to serve. If he reads this review, I would personally like to say, thank you Dr. Reynolds. Doctors are supposed to inform their patients. It is up to the patients to do what is best for themselves after being informed. I consider myself completely informed, thanks to you. This is a must read! *****

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Big Squeeze: History of mammography in US By JDSThe Big Squeeze is a rather short, concise summary of the development of mammography as a screening test for breast cancer and the politics surrounding it. To me the author stretches a bit in trying to draw parallels with the AIDs epidemic, but I found the history of the times interesting. The book is well referenced. Since this is an area of professional interest to me I did go directly to a number of the reference articles cited and found that the author had quoted the original articles accurately and fairly evenhandedly to make his points. Controversy surrounding this topic does exist but it is in my opinion sometimes slightly overblown in order to make the book more dramatic. I understand the need to hold the reader's interest, especially readers not well versed in the topic. My criticisms are minor however as I did find the book to be accurate and entertaining and highly informative.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating By CustomerThis book is for everyone who has ever cared about breast cancer. What's it about? It's about the mammogram. Not the mammogram as the radiological examination searching for signs of breast cancer, but the mammogram as a social and cultural being. Breast imaging is a controversial topic, and Dr. Reynolds brilliantly discusses how the mammogram came to be, how it came to the fore in American health consciousness, and how it became the phenomenally powerful and emotive political football that it is today. The book is written for the lay audience, and it is simple to understand and to engage. Dr. Reynolds does a magnificent job of discussing why mammography (and breast imaging) is, perhaps, the most politicized single aspect of medicine today. If you have had a mammogram, if you know someone who has had a mammogram, or if you WANT to have a mammogram, this book is a must-read. It's much more revealing than you can possibly imagine.

In 2009, an influential panel of medical experts ignited a controversy when they recommended that most women should not begin routine mammograms to screen for breast cancer until the age of fifty, reversing guidelines they had issued just seven years before when they recommended forty as the optimal age to start getting mammograms. While some praised the new recommendation as sensible given the smaller benefit women under fifty derive from mammography, many women's groups, health care advocates, and individual women saw the guidelines as privileging financial considerations over women's health and a setback to decades-long efforts to reduce the mortality rate of breast cancer. In *The Big Squeeze*, Dr. Handel Reynolds, a practicing radiologist, notes that this episode was only the most recent controversy in the turbulent history of mammography since its introduction in the early 1970s. In a book written for the millions of women who face the decision about whether to get a mammogram, health professionals interested in cancer screening, and public health policymakers, Reynolds shows how pivotal decisions made during mammography's initial launch made it all but inevitable that the test would be contentious. He describes how, at several key points in its history, the emphasis on mammography screening as a fundamental aspect of women's preventive health care coincided with social and political developments, from the women's movement in the early 1970s to breast cancer activism in the 1980s and 90s. At the same time, aggressive promotion of mammography made the screening tool the cornerstone of a huge new industry. Taking a balanced approach to this much-disputed issue, Reynolds addresses both the benefits and risks of mammography, charting debates, for example, that have weighed the early detection of aggressively malignant tumors against unnecessary treatments resulting from the identification of slow-growing and non-life-threatening cancers. *The Big Squeeze*, ultimately, helps to evaluate the ongoing public health controversies surrounding mammography and provides a clear understanding of how mammography achieved its current primacy in cancer screening.

"Does mammography reduce mortality from breast cancer, and if so, to what degree? . . . Do benefits of mammography exceed the potential harms? Why and how did the debate shift from a scientific to a political one? The Big Squeeze provides answers to these questions by taking readers on a fascinating and enlightening 50-year journey. . . . Providing a balanced, objective, in-depth discussion of all aspects of screening mammography, The Big Squeeze will not only be an educational asset for physicians but a book they can feel comfortable in recommending to their patients as well." Leonard Berlin, MD, Journal of the American Medical Association (19 December 2012) "The Big Squeeze gives a short and interesting view of the social and political history of mammography. . . . Reynolds . . . retells the so-called truth of mammography screening, and he gives a balanced view. He devotes a whole chapter to overdiagnosis, the major harm of mammography screening. . . . I enjoyed reading this book and would highly recommend it to everybody." Mette Kalager, The Lancet Oncology (February 2013) "Dr. Handel Reynolds has done a terrific job in telling the story of mammographic screening and putting it into context! Everyone who wants to understand why this has become a third rail needs to read this book." Susan M. Love, MD, President of the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation and author of Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book "The Big Squeeze is a fascinating and thought-provoking review of the history, science, and politics of breast cancer screening. Despite my many years in this field, I learned a great deal, particularly about some of the earlier years of the development of screening mammography. The book is beautifully written and highly readable it will be a great resource for health care professionals and the public." Valerie P. Jackson, MD, FACR, Eugene C. Klatte Professor and Chair, Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences, Indiana University School of Medicine "This book is a quiet call for a more frank discussion of what an 'indispensable tool' mammography is in the fight against breast cancer . . . Reynolds takes a critical look at the 'breast cancer epidemic'; the ever-shifting guidelines regarding the age at which women should be screened; confusing interpretations of results; the role of breast cancer activists in promoting mammograms; and the profitable industry that has grown up around mammography. . . . 'Women need complete and accurate information regarding the risks and benefits,' Reynolds asserts and this brief, clear volume can be the first step in achieving that goal." Publishers Weekly (11 June 2012) "The Big Squeeze is first class. Dr. Handel Reynolds describes the controversy over mammography in a careful, objective fashion. He avoids polemical descriptions and shares with readers the information currently available about the benefits and risks of mammography." Jerome Kassirer, MD, Distinguished Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine, author of On the Take: How Medicine's Complicity with Big Business Can Endanger Your Health "The Big Squeeze is a terrific book: a history of screening mammography that is interesting, important, timely and controversial. The book is short, fast moving, and balanced (although, in this day of polarized opinions, balance is often perceived only through the eyes of the beholder). It will be of particular interest to women, physicians, and perhaps politicians. Dr. Handel Reynolds interweaves scientific, social, political, emotional and economic issues, many of which are peculiar to breast cancer. Much of the confusion and controversy regarding screening mammography resolves around age and timing: when to begin and how often. Physicians, statisticians, politicians, and patients from around the world, each using the same data, have come up with different recommendations for breast screening. Dr. Reynolds takes us on this roller-coaster ride and his conclusions are that annual screening mammography, starting at age 40, does save lives, but . . ." Ferris M. Hall, MD, FACR, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School About the Author The late Handel Reynolds MD was a breast radiologist in private practice in Atlanta, Georgia, and former Chief of Breast Radiology at Indiana University.