

- Will I have to spend any time in the hospital as part of these treatments? How long?
- Can I continue my normal lifestyle during treatments? Is there anything special I can do to take care of myself during these treatments? Should someone come with me to the treatments?
- Will my breast change in appearance after treatment? How?
- Will the costs of the treatment be covered by my health insurance?
- How often will I have to have checkups and tests after my treatment is finished?

Printed with permission, Morra and Potts, *Choices*, Avon Books, 1994, p. 339.

I was very fortunate in many ways because I had a good friend of mine who just had gone through the same process. In fact she was in chemotherapy at the time and who is a researcher and had made it her business when she found out she had breast cancer to read all the latest literature. And so she gave me information and when I started comparing what the research reports were saying about mastectomy versus lumpectomy, I decided my chances were as good with lumpectomy as it is with mastectomy so I went for, I asked to have the lumpectomy. So I think I made an informed decision.



**Jennie Joe**  
[Navajo]



I had the lump removed at the same time, we had made a pre-arrangement, the doctor and I had, if it was malignant, they would go ahead and remove the tumor and tissue around it.

**Mary Lou Davis** [Caddo/Cherokee]