

So the doctor told me I could go in first thing in the morning, 6:00, and have what they call a modified radical mastectomy, which in laymen's terms means the removal of your breast, all your lymph nodes in your arm, which fights off infection, and also the first layer of your chest muscles. And that's [what's] involved in that.



Martha Red Willow
[Oglala Sioux]



Cindy Thornton
[Western Cherokee]

The [Doctors] decided that I should under go a modified radical mastectomy and which I did. I waited 2 weeks until the surgery, which was the longest 2 weeks of my life. . . To this day, I don't know what happened the first three days. But on the sixth day that I was in the hospital. I just got up, I felt good. I stripped my bed, I start putting all my stuff and getting all my flowers together. And the nurse comes in and says, "What are you doing?" I said "I'm ready to go

home now", they said "you can't go home, you've got one more day, you need to stay one more day". And I'm like, oh man, so make my bed again, put everything back out. Trying to take my time, and figure out. . . ., so I go "Can I have popcorn or anything like this?". Then people started coming to see me, my relatives and I call them, the "prayer chain". All my aunts and uncles came and prayed and I felt real strong and positive and I was ready to go home. On the seventh day they said, well you better wait for the doctor to come around.

Well I have the doctor's beeper. I beeped him at 7:00 a.m. and I said, Dr. Little you need to release me now, I'm tired of stripping my