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Management of elderly patients with breast cancer : towards evidence based medicine

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List of publications

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Curriculum vitae

Willemien van de Water was born in Assen on May 28, 1984. After graduating cum laude at the Vincent van Gogh Gymnasium, she started Medicine at the University of Groningen in 2002. During her scientific internship at the department of Geriatrics and Gerontology at the Leiden University Medical Center (prof. dr. R.G.J. Westendorp en dr. A.J.M. de Craen), she became interested in the medical and social challenges regarding the elderly patient, and the surprising knowledge gap in the treatment and approach of this large group of patients.

She started her clinical rotations at the Leiden University and achieved her medical degree in 2009, after which she worked as a surgical resident at the 'Rijnland Ziekenhuis' in Leiderdorp. In 2010 she had the opportunity to combine her scientific interest in the elderly patient with her clinical ambition to specialize in surgery. For four years, she worked as a research fellow at the FOCUS study group, a collaboration between the departments of Surgical Oncology and Geriatrics and Gerontology at the Leiden University Medical Center (promotores prof. dr. C.J.H. van de Velde and prof. dr. R.G.J. Westendorp), funded by the Dutch Cancer Foundation. During these years, she achieved her registration as epidemiologist B. Thanks to, among others, a major fellowship of the European Society of Surgical Oncology, she got the opportunity to collaborate with the department of Senior Adult Oncology Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida (prof. dr. L. Balducci and prof. dr. M. Extermann), where she conducted part of her research.

In January 2014 she started her training in surgery at the 'Rijnland Ziekenhuis', under supervision of dr. A.M. Zeillemaker.

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