

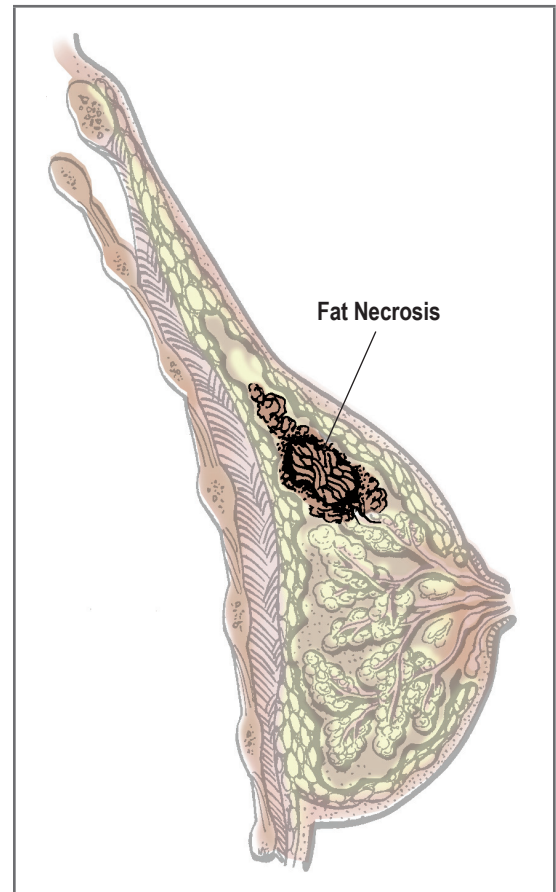
Fat Necrosis Tumor

Definition of Terms:

- **Benign** — Not cancerous; no threat to the body
- **Hematoma** — Accumulation of blood under the skin from internal bleeding
- **Necrosis** — Death of cells due to injury or disease
- **Microcalcifications** — Small areas of calcium deposits seen during mammography; may be related to a malignant or benign condition

Fat necrosis is a benign change in the breast caused by an injury that damages the tissue and promotes the development of a firm or hard mass. It is often difficult to distinguish from cancer because of how the lesion feels and its appearance during mammography. The lesion may feel very hard and firm. On a mammogram, the area may have scattered microcalcifications. Evaluation is required to rule out cancer. A biopsy may be required.

An injury to the breast that causes a hematoma will often cause numerous changes in the cells in the affected area of the breast. A round, firm area forms over time from the damaged cells. Usually, no pain is involved. Occasionally, skin retraction or puckering may occur in the skin over the area. Fat necrosis is **not** cancerous and does not increase the risk of breast cancer. Surgery may be recommended to remove the lesion because it can hide other changes in the breast.



Additional Information: