
Apocrine Carcinoma

Definition of Terms:

- **Apocrine** — Type of sweat gland that is found under the arms and in the groin
- **Axillary Sampling** — Surgical removal of random lymph nodes from under the arms from one or more of the three levels of nodes
- **Biopsy** — Procedure to remove cells or tissues for study by a pathologist
- **Carcinoma** — Cancer cells that start in the surface layers or lining of the ducts
- **Cyst** — A fluid-filled sac
- **Lumpectomy** — Removal of a lump and a small amount of surrounding tissues from the breast
- **Lymph Nodes** — Pea-like areas in the lymphatic system that act as filters for the body's cellular waste; lymph nodes under the arms filter the waste from breast tissues
- **Malignant** — Cancerous; a threat to the body
- **Mastectomy** — Surgical removal of a breast
- **Metastasis** — Spread of cancer to other parts of the body
- **Mitotic Rate** — Rate of cell division
- **Radiation Therapy** — Treatment with X-rays to kill cancer cells
- **Well-Differentiated** — Cells that look very similar to the cells from which they came

Apocrine carcinoma is an uncommon cancer that is often referred to as sweat gland carcinoma. Sweat glands are found under the arms and in the groin area of the body. These glands are often present in the lining of cysts and tumors that are found in the ducts of the breasts. Biopsy reports usually reveal a slow-growing malignant tumor (having a low mitotic rate) that is well-differentiated (good sign). Often these tumors prove to be negative for estrogen and progesterone receptors.

Surgery options include lumpectomy with axillary sampling and radiation or modified mastectomy with lymph node removal. Treatment is based on the size of the tumor, lymph node metastasis, estrogen/progesterone receptor status, HER2 status, cell growth rate (mitotic rate), patient's age and menopausal state.

Additional Information:
