

Papilloma

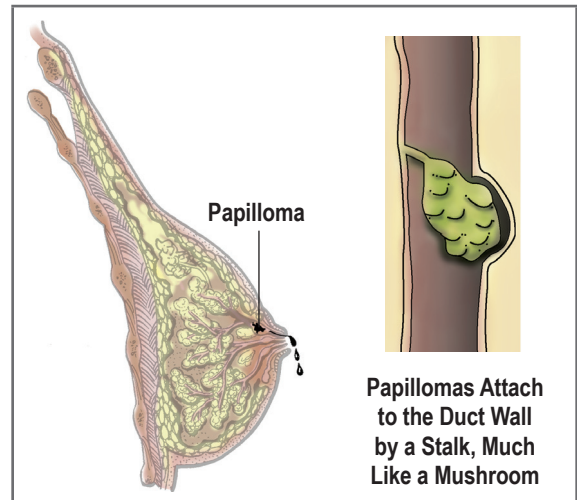
Definition of Terms:

- **Benign** — Not cancerous; no threat to the body
- **Catheter** — Small tube placed into the duct
- **Ductogram** — Procedure to inject dye into duct for X-ray pictures to be made
- **Malignant** — Cancerous; a threat to the body

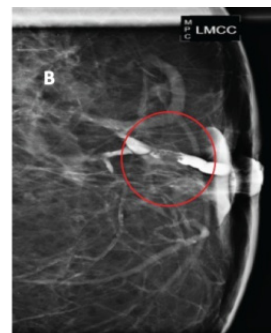
Papillomas are benign, usually tiny, wart-like growths found in large ducts of the breast near the nipple area. Papillomas are usually painless unless multiple papillomas create a mass. They may occur as a single growth or in groups. Often a bloody discharge occurs from one duct opening on one nipple. The growths appear most often between the ages of 35 and 50.

Papillomas are usually not visible by mammography. Ultrasound may show the papilloma as a lobulated mass with a dilated duct.

Diagnosis is usually made by a ductogram (galactography), a procedure in which a cannula (thin tube) is inserted and radiographic dye is injected into the duct producing the discharge. X-ray pictures allow observation of the interior of the duct and can confirm the presence of an intraductal-filling defect. Papillomas are identified by the characteristic of being attached to the lining of the duct by a stalk (much like a mushroom). Surgery is usually required to remove the involved duct, even though it may not be cancerous, because of the bloody discharge and the need for a definitive diagnosis.



Ductogram (Galactography)



Duct injected with contrast showing blocked areas in the duct

Image courtesy of openi.nlm.nih.gov

Additional Information: