

Papillary Carcinoma

Definition of Terms:

- **Axillary Sampling** — Surgical removal of random lymph nodes under the arm from one or more of the three levels of nodes
- **Carcinoma** — Cancer cells that start in the surface layers or lining of the ducts
- **Lumpectomy** — Removal of a lump and a small amount of surrounding tissues from a 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 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
- **Papillary** — Growth that has a stalk-like base
- **Radiation Therapy** — Treatment with X-rays to kill cancer cells
- **Tumor** — Excessive cell growth that creates a lump; may be cancerous or non-cancerous

Papillary carcinoma accounts for less than 1 percent of all malignant tumors. Fifty percent of the tumors of this type are located in the center of the breast near the nipple. It is found more often in later life with the average diagnosis occurring from 63 to 67 years of age, with an increase in occurrence in African American and non-Caucasian populations.

The tumor may be found as in situ (DCIS) or as a lump in the breast that can be felt. Often a papillary carcinoma will occur inside of a cyst-type wall that gives the tumor a well-circumscribed (well defined) shape or lump. Tumors are usually positive for estrogen and progesterone receptors (they are stimulated to grow by hormones). Approximately one-third of women have a nipple discharge as the first symptom. Lymph node metastasis may be present, but this cancer is considered a slow-growing cancer with a good prognosis.

Surgery options will include a lumpectomy and radiation therapy or modified radical mastectomy. Treatment options will vary according to the size of the tumor, lymph nodes involved with the tumor, how fast the tumor is growing, estrogen/progesterone receptor status, age and menopausal status of the patient.

Invasive Papillary Carcinoma

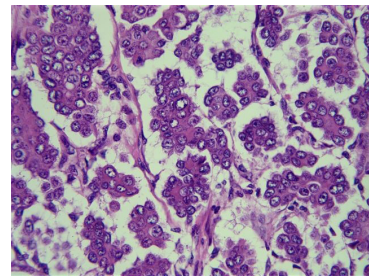


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