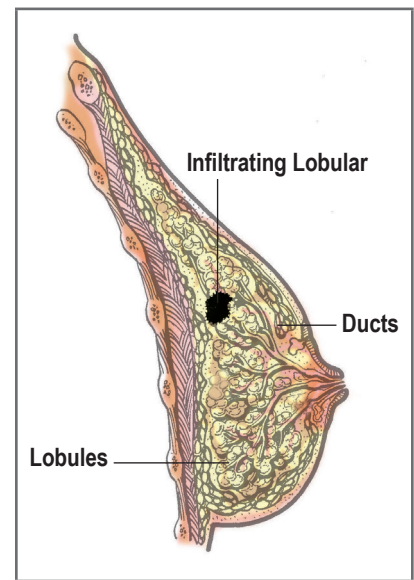


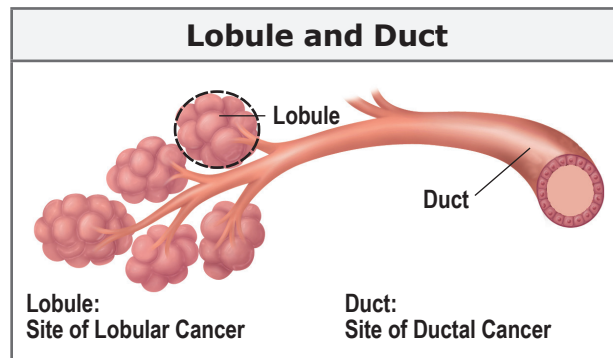
Invasive (Infiltrating) Lobular Carcinoma Female Patient

Definition of Terms:

- **Carcinoma** — Cancer cells that start in the surface layers or lining of the ducts
- **Hormonal Therapy** — Treatment with hormones or anti-hormonal medications
- **Infiltrating** — Cells that go through the walls of the lobules
- **Invasive** — Cells that have grown into surrounding tissues
- **Lobular** — Found in the lower parts of the ducts where the milk is produced
- **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 the majority of 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
- **Tumor** — Excessive growth of cells that create a lump; may be cancerous or non-cancerous



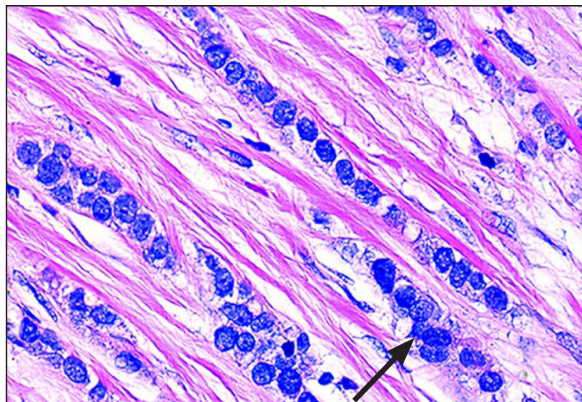
Invasive (infiltrating) lobular carcinoma accounts for about five percent of all malignant, invasive cancers. It occurs most frequently in women between the ages of 45 and 56. The tumor grows in the terminal (last part) of the lobules where milk is produced. It usually does not show up during mammography and may feel like a thickening in the upper-outer quarter of the breast (from the nipple to under the arm) as it infiltrates the walls of the lobules.



Late signs of a large tumor area may be the retraction or puckering of the skin over the area. Most tumors are positive for estrogen and progesterone receptors and thus respond well to hormonal therapy. Infiltrating lobular carcinoma sometimes has an increased incidence of spreading to the uterus and ovaries.

Surgery may range from a lumpectomy to a mastectomy to bilateral mastectomies. Variations in surgical options are due to invasive lobular characteristics. Invasive lobular carcinoma has a higher potential than other invasive breast tumors to be found in multiple quadrants of the breast (multicentric) or be found in the opposite breast (bilateral). Your surgeon will evaluate your breasts carefully to determine the most appropriate surgical option for your diagnosis.

Invasive Lobular Carcinoma



Cells have invaded the lobular wall and grown into surrounding tissues in a single file pattern.

Image courtesy of Pathology Outlines.com

Additional Information: