

Carcinoma In Situ: Comedo Pattern

Definition of Terms:

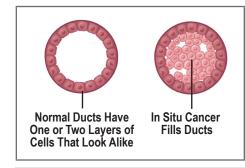
- **Benign** Not cancerous; no threat to the body
- **Biopsy** Procedure to remove cells or tissues for study by a pathologist
- Calcifications Small areas of calcium deposits seen during mammography; may be related to a malignant or a benign condition
- Carcinoma Cancer cells that start in the surface layers or lining of the ducts
- In Situ In one contained area; has not invaded cell wall of duct
- Lymph Nodes Pea-like areas found in the lymphatic system that act as filters of the body's waste; the majority of the nodes that filter waste from the breast tissues are located under the arm
- Metastasis Cancer that has spread to another part of the body
- Malignant Cancerous; a threat to the body

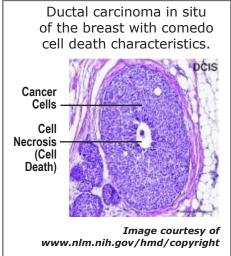
Carcinoma in situ with a comedo pattern is a form of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) that exhibits a higher risk of being aggressive.

When cancer cells grow and fill the ducts, cells often begin dying (necrosis) and leave behind microcalcifications, a marker for in situ cancer.

After a biopsy, the pathologist identifies cells within the ducts with a pattern called comedo. Identification of a comedo pattern indicates a more aggressive in situ cancer. If a comedo characteristic is identified, the ductal carcinoma in situ cancer (DCIS) has a higher incidence of invading the walls of the ducts than one that does not have a comedo component. However, because the cancer is still inside of the ducts, it is not lifethreatening and can be removed and treated successfully.

Your healthcare provider will offer you treatment options that may include mastectomy or lumpectomy followed by radiation therapy and other treatments.





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