

Mucinous Carcinoma

Other Terms Used to Describe:

- Colloid Carcinoma
- Gelatinous Carcinoma

Definition of Terms:

- **Axillary** — Area under the arms; armpit
- **Carcinoma** — Cancer cells that start in surface layers or lining of the ducts
- **Chemotherapy** — Treatment with medications to kill cancer cells
- **Circumscribed** — Contents confined to a certain area
- **Colloid** — Resembling gelatin
- **Gelatinous** — Resembling gelatin in consistency
- **Hormonal Therapy** — Treatment with hormones or anti-hormonal medications
- **Lumpectomy** — Removal of a lump and a small amount of surrounding tissue from the breast
- **Lymph Nodes** — Pea-like areas in the lymphatic system that filter the body's cellular waste; lymph nodes under the arm filter waste from breast tissues
- **Malignant** — Cancerous, a threat to the body
- **Mastectomy** — Surgical removal of the breast
- **Metastasis** — Spread of cancer to other parts of the body
- **Mitotic Rate** — Rate at which cancer cells are doubling in number
- **Prognosis** — A prediction of the future course of the disease for a patient
- **Radiation Therapy** — Treatment with X-rays to kill cancer cells
- **Tumor** — Excessive cell growth that creates a lump which may be cancerous or non-cancerous

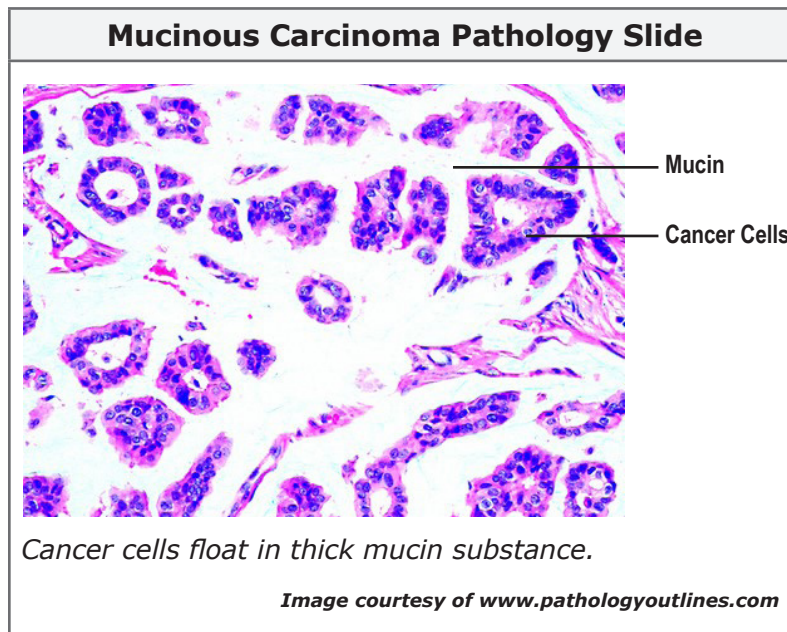
Mucinous carcinoma is a cancerous tumor that accounts for approximately one percent or less of all cancerous breast tumors. The tumor is often very large and bulky because it is filled with a mucin (gelatin-like substance) that varies from very soft to firm in consistency, according to the amount of fibrous tissue in the tumor. Cancer cells float in the gelatin-like substance, often causing the lump to feel spongy, like a breast cyst. Usually, the cancer has not spread to the lymph nodes and the prognosis is favorable.

Surgical Options

Surgery options vary according to the size of the tumor in relation to the size of the breast. Surgical options include:

- Lumpectomy with axillary sentinel lymph node dissection and radiation therapy
- Lumpectomy with axillary sentinel lymph node dissection, radiation therapy and possibly chemotherapy
- Mastectomy with axillary sentinel lymph node dissection and possibly chemotherapy.

Mucinous carcinomas may prove to be positive for estrogen and progesterone receptors. Thus, hormonal therapy, such as Nolvadex® (tamoxifen), may be added according to the menopausal status of the woman.



Additional Information: