Breast Pathology

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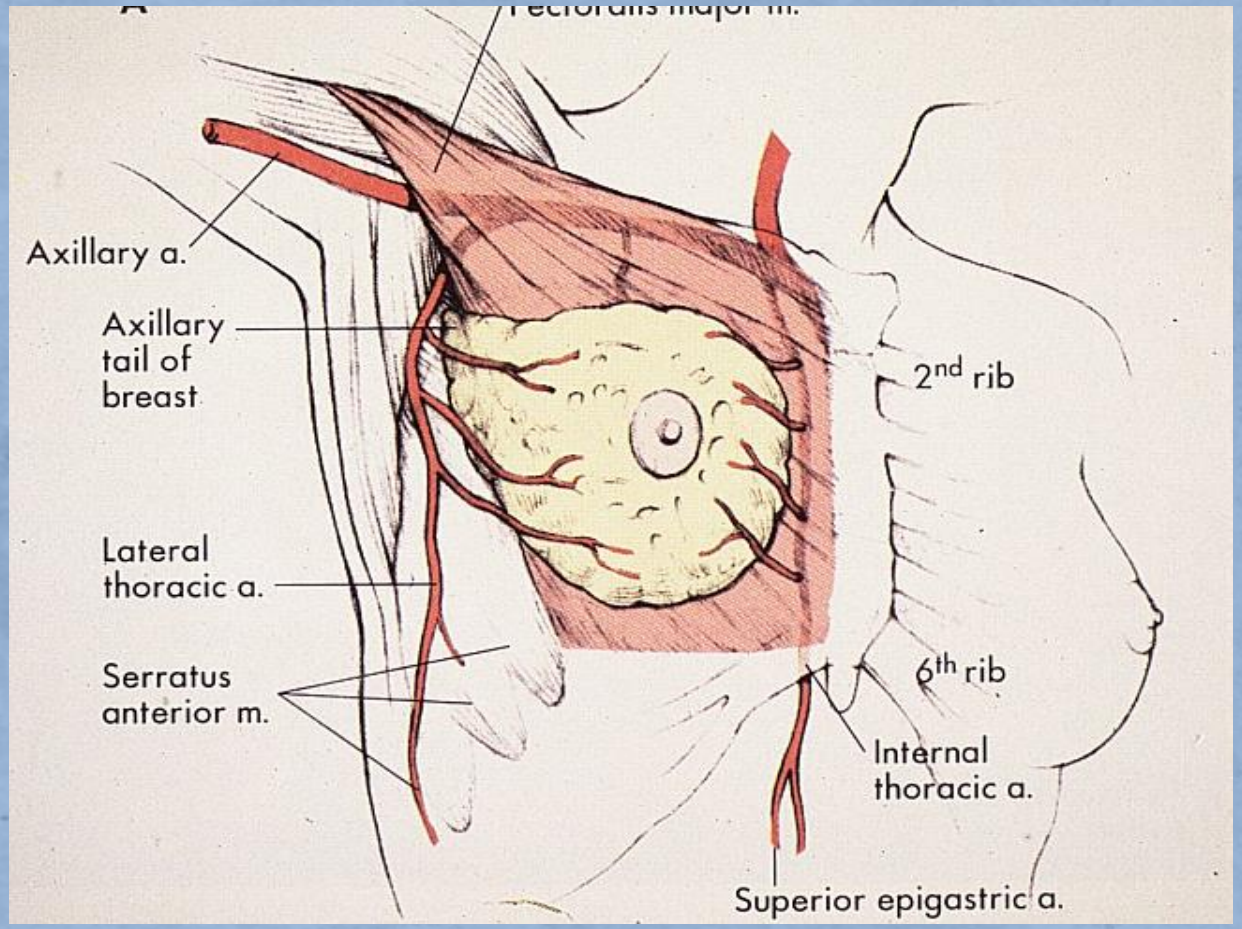
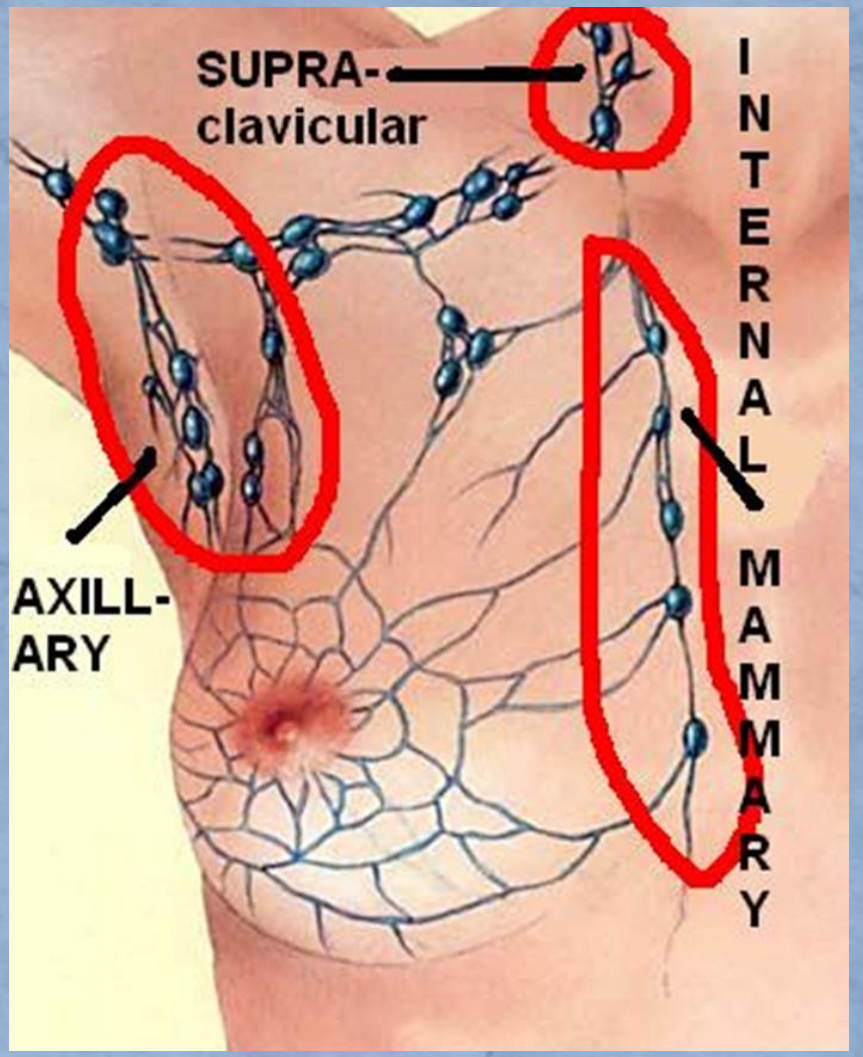
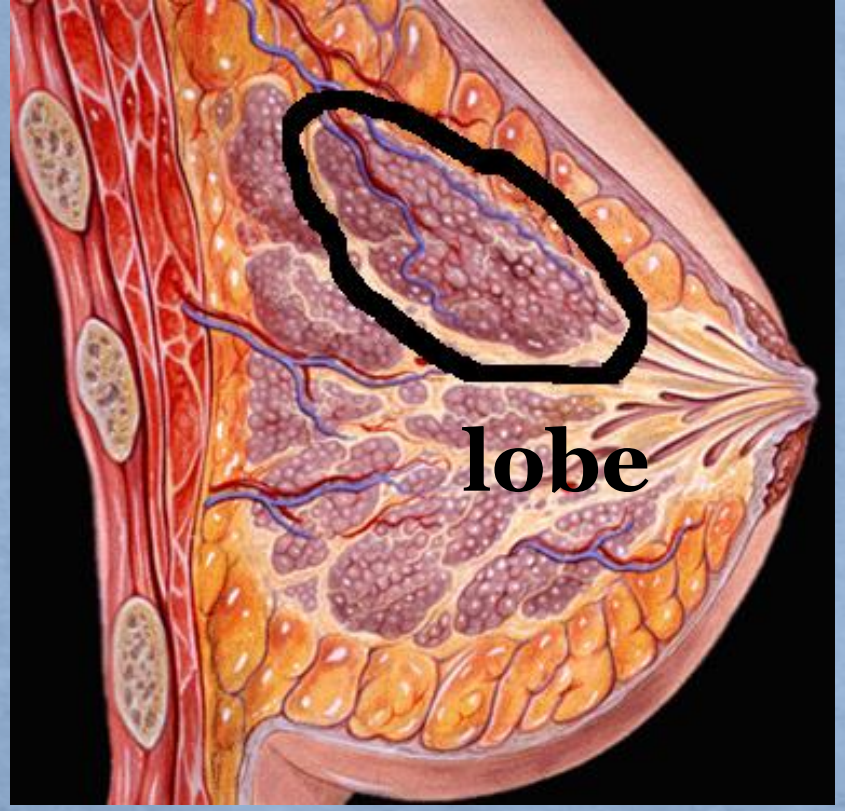
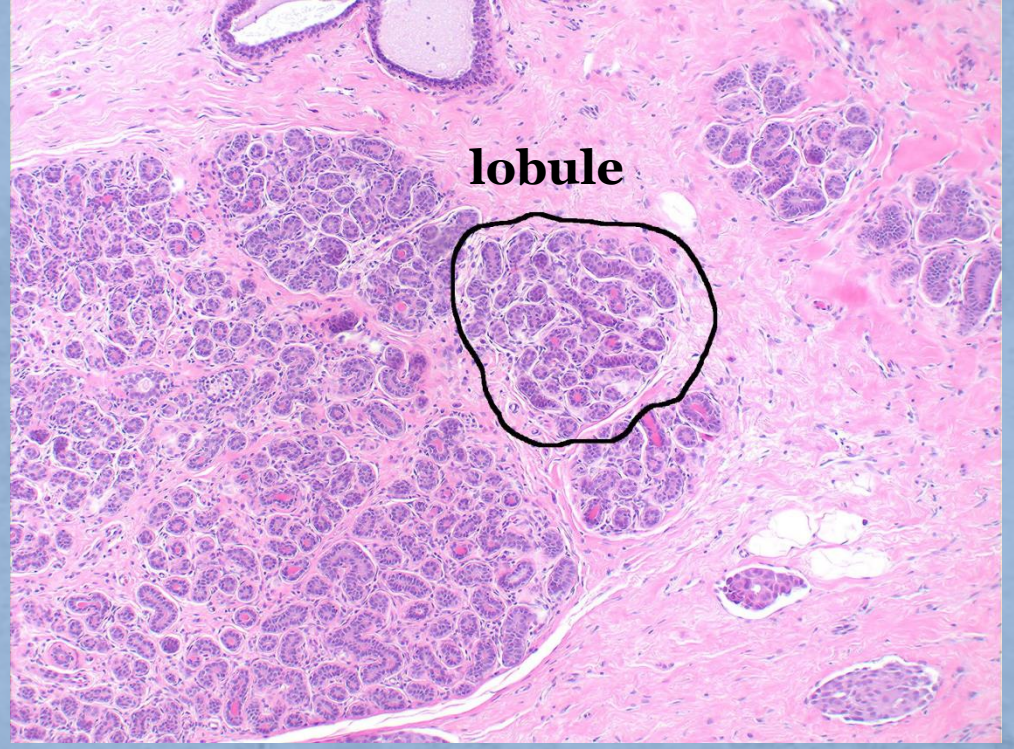


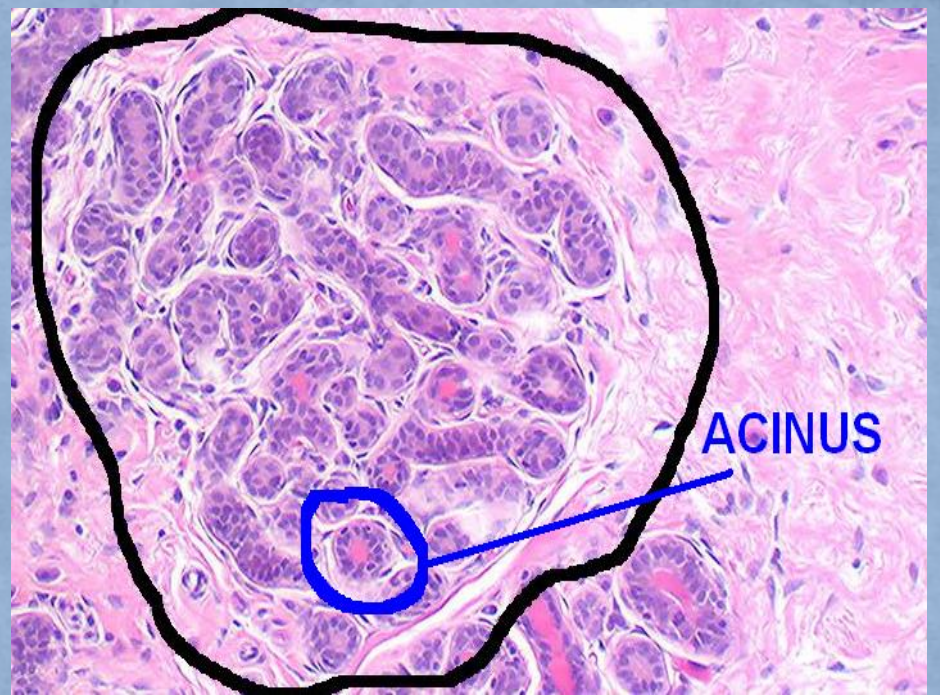


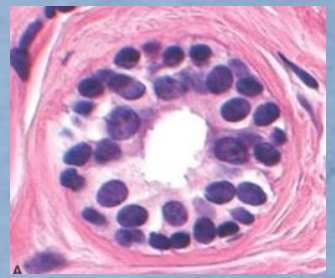
Lymphatic drainage of breast





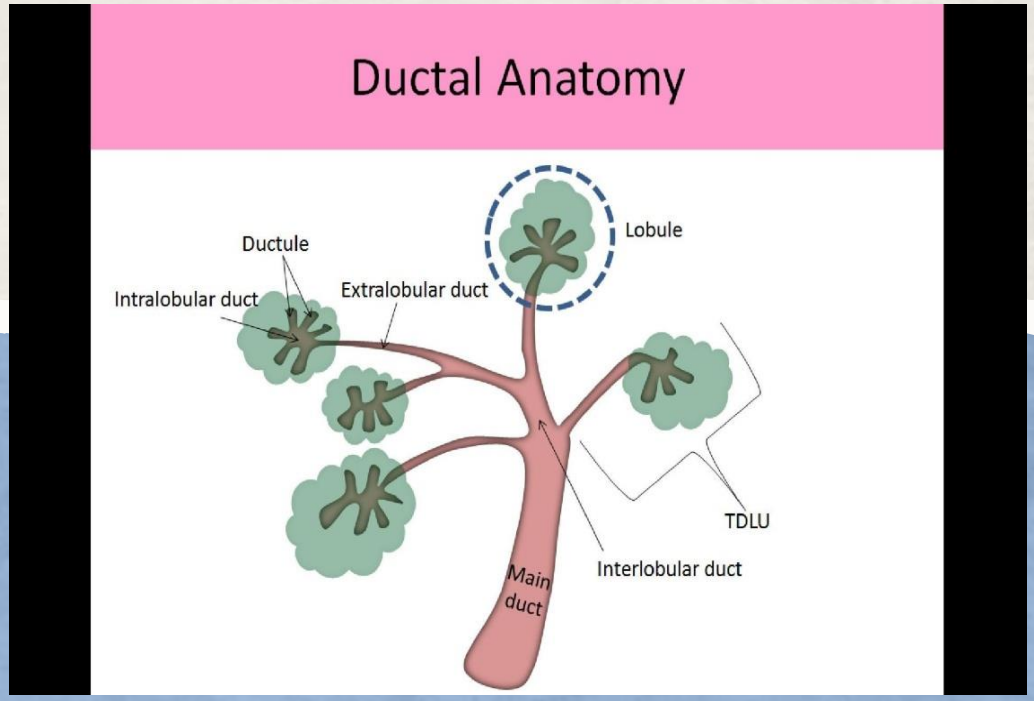
- **LOBES: (about 10 in whole breast)**
- **LOBULE:**
- **ACINUI/ALVEOLI:** Each acini is lined by a bilayered epithelial and myoepithelial cells.
- **DUCTS:**

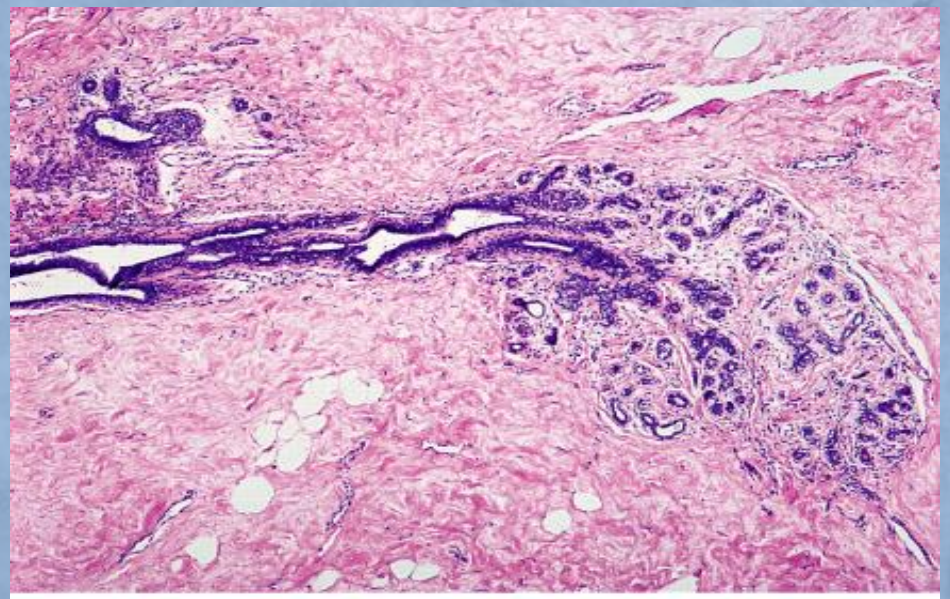


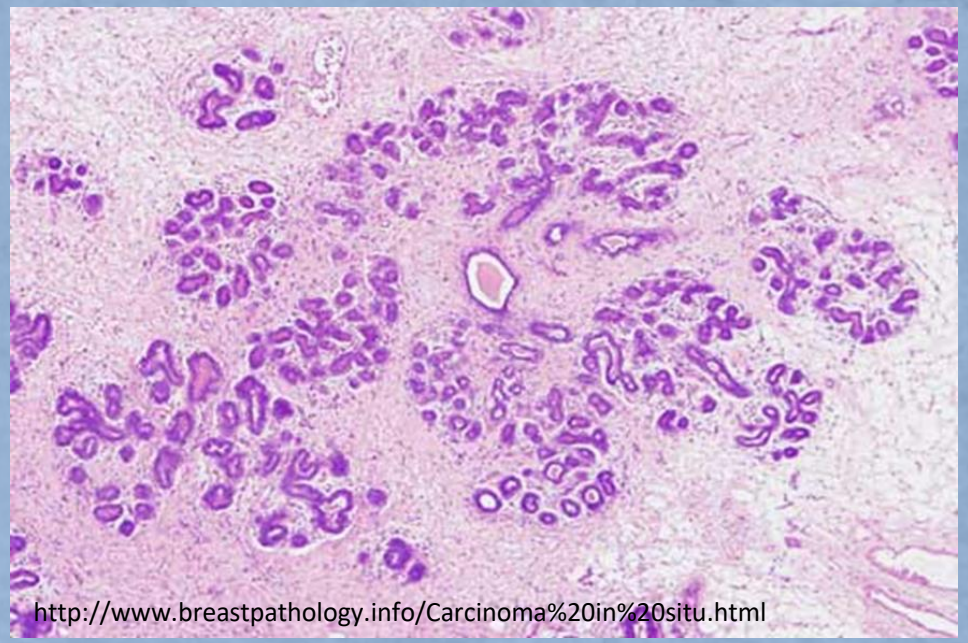


DUCTS

- Six to ten major ductal systems originate at the nipple.
- Branching of the large ducts leads to the terminal duct lobular units.
- The TDU branches into grapelike clusters of small acini to form the lobule.







Objectives

Pathology of benign breast diseases.

At the end of this lecture, the student should be able to:

A. Know the ways that benign breast conditions can clinically present.

B. Know the common inflammatory conditions of breast (mastitis and abscesses).

C. Understand the pathology of fibrocystic change.

D. Know the common benign breast tumours with special emphasis on fibroadenoma and phyllodes tumour.

E. Know the risk of subsequent breast cancer in women with diagnosed benign breast tissue.

Breast cancer.

At the end of this lecture, the student should be able to:

A. Know the risk factors for the development of breast cancer.

B. Know the classification of breast cancer.

C. Understand the behavior and spread of breast cancer.

D. Know the prognostic indicators of breast carcinoma.

Clinical Presentation of Breast Diseases

1) **Pain (mastalgia):** is the most common breast symptom. May be cyclical (with menses) or noncyclical. Diffuse cyclical pain has no pathologic significance. Non-cyclical pain can be caused by ruptured cysts or areas of prior injury or infection, or no specific cause. Although the great majority of painful masses are benign, about 10% of breast cancers present with pain.

2) **Palpable mass**

3) **Nipple discharge:**
   - Milky discharge: not associated with malignancy.
   - Bloody or serous discharges: commonly associated with benign lesions but can rarely be due to a malignancy.

Mammographic screening

Mammographic screening was introduced in the 1980s as a means to detect small, nonpalpable, asymptomatic breast carcinomas. The value of mammography lies in its ability to identify small, nonpalpable cancers. The principal mammographic findings of breast carcinoma are densities/masses and calcifications:

1. **Densities(mass):** Most tumors appear radiologically denser than the normal breast. Fibroadenomas, cysts etc. can also present as densities.
2. **Calcifications:** Calcium gets deposited in secretions, necrotic debris, or hyalinized stroma. It can be seen in benign and malignant conditions
   - Calcifications in malignancy are usually small, irregular, numerous, and clustered.
   - Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) is most commonly detected as mammographic calcifications. Mammographic screening has increased the diagnosis of DCIS.

Mamographic screening is generally recommended to start after age 40.

Breast lesions

1. **Inflammatory lesions**
   a) Acute mastitis: staph infection most common
   b) Periductal mastitis
   c) Mammary duct ectasia means dilated ducts disease
   d) Fat necrosis is usually due to mechanical trauma, surgical or otherwise
   e) Lymphocytic mastopathy (sclerosing lymphocytic lobulitis) seen in diabetics
   f) Granulomatous mastitis sarcoid, TB, etc., but mostly idiopathic

2. **Benign epithelial lesions**
   a) Non proliferative breast changes (fibrocystic changes)
   b) Proliferative breast disease without atypia
   c) Proliferative breast disease with atypia /Atypical hyperplasia

3. **Carcinoma in situ**
   a) DCIS
   b) LCIS

4. **Invasive carcinoma**
   a) Ductal carcinoma
   b) Lobular carcinoma

5. **Others/stromal tumors** e.g. fibroadenoma, phyllodes tumors, sarcomas etc.

Mastitis

- **Acute mastitis:** Almost all cases of acute mastitis occur during the first month of breastfeeding. *Staphylococcus aureus* is the most common causative organiasm. The breast is erythematous and painful, and fever is often present.
- **Periductal mastitis:** This condition is not associated with lactation. There is strong association with cigarette smoking.

Benign epithelial lesions of breast are divided into 3 basic types

1. **Non proliferative breast changes (fibrocystic changes)**
2. **Proliferative breast disease without atypia**
3. **Proliferative breast disease with atypia (Atypical hyperplasia)**

1- Non proliferative Breast Changes (Fibrocystic Change/disease)

- Most common disorder of the breast. Age: 20-55yrs, decreases progressively after menopause.
- The cause is not known. Thought to be caused by hormonal imbalances.
- Can produce palpable breast mass, mammographic densities, calcifications, or nipple discharge. May also present with cyclical pain.
- No increased risk for cancer
- Histology: Three patterns seen :
  1. **Cysts formation with apocrine metaplasia:** cysts are lined by benign flattened to columnar epithelium with focal apocrine metaplasia. In apocrine metaplasia the cells become large and have abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm. The cysts can rupture and cause inflammation
  2. **Fibrosis:** contribute to the palpable firmness of the breast
  3. **Adenosis:** Increase in the number of acini per lobule (adenosis can also be seen in pregnancy).

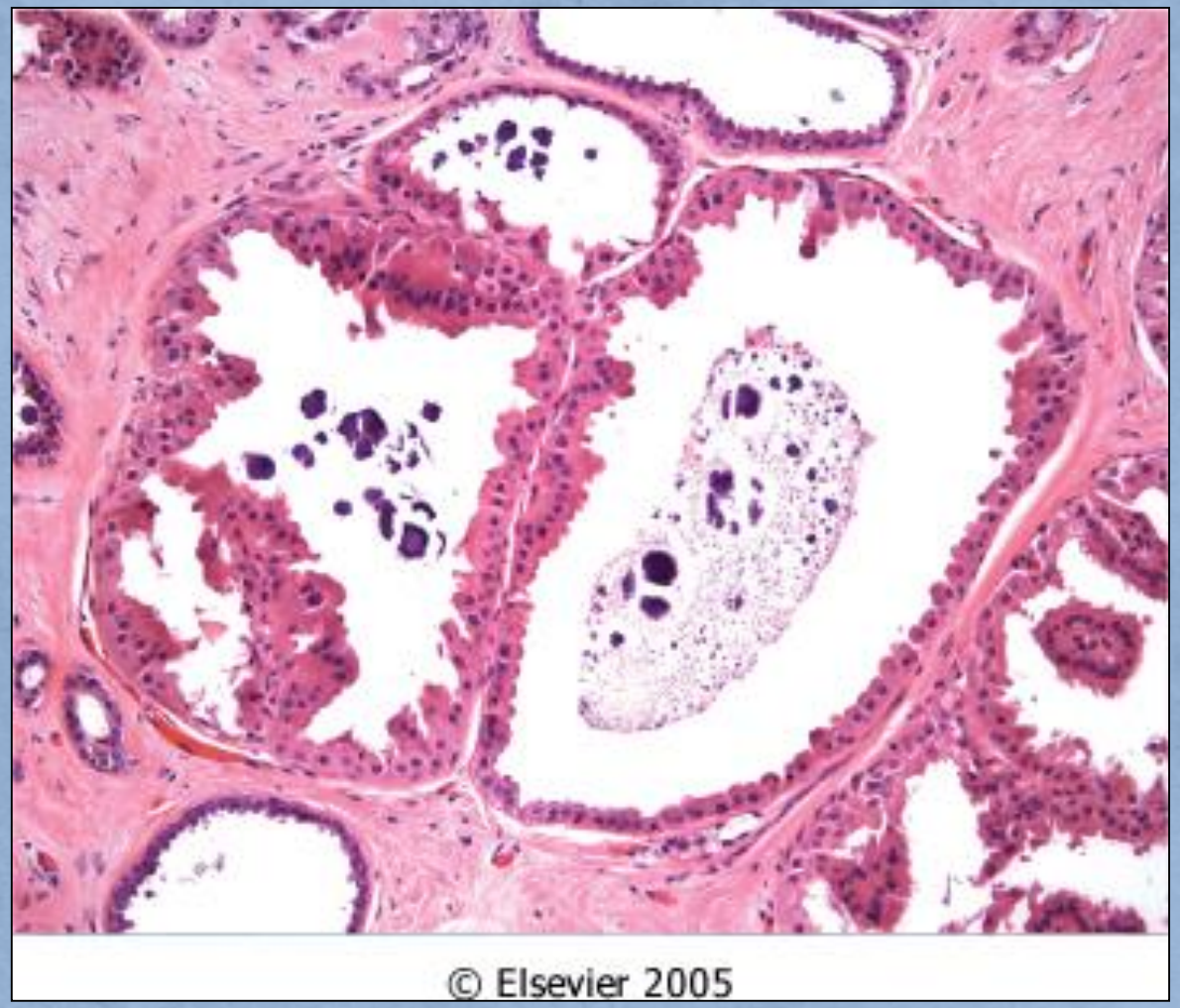


Figure 23-7 Apocrine cysts. Cells with round nuclei and abundant granular eosinophilic cytoplasm, resembling the cells of normal apocrine sweat glands, line the walls of a cluster of small cysts. Secretory debris, frequently with calcifications, is often present. Groups of cysts are common findings associated with clustered mammographic calcifications.

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2- Proliferative Disease without Atypia

- Rarely form palpable masses
- Detected as small mammographic densities.
- Incidental finding
- Risk for cancer is 1.5 – 2 times normal
- The following entities are included in this category:
  a) Epithelial hyperplasia
  b) Sclerosing adenosis
  c) Complex sclerosing lesions/radial scar
  d) Papillomas
  e) Proliferative variant of fibrocystic disease.

2- Proliferative Disease without Atypia contd…

a) Epithelial Hyperplasia (usual epithelial hyperplasia).

- Normal breast has a 2 layers of cells (epithelial and myoepithelial cells). Epithelial hyperplasia is defined as the presence of more than 2 layers.
- Hyperplasia can range from mild, moderate to severe/florid.
- Both epithelial and myoepithelial cells proliferate.
- It can be seen in the ducts and the lobules.
- When it is seen in fibrocystic disease: it is called as proliferative type/variant of fibrocystic disease.

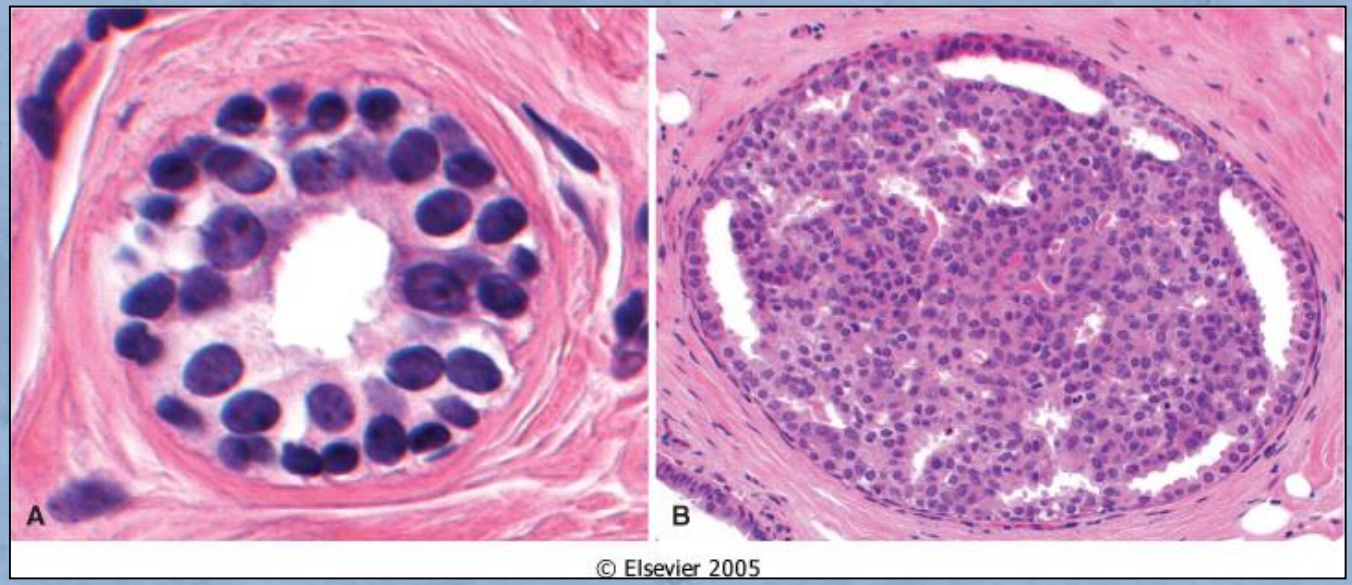

Figure 23-8 A, Normal. A normal duct or acinus has a single basally located myoepithelial cell layer (cells with dark, compact nuclei and scant cytoplasm) and a single luminal cell layer (cells with larger open nuclei, small nucleoli, and more abundant cytoplasm). B, Epithelial hyperplasia. The lumen is filled with a heterogeneous population of cells of different morphologies, often including both luminal and myoepithelial cell types. Irregular slitlike fenestrations are prominent at the periphary.

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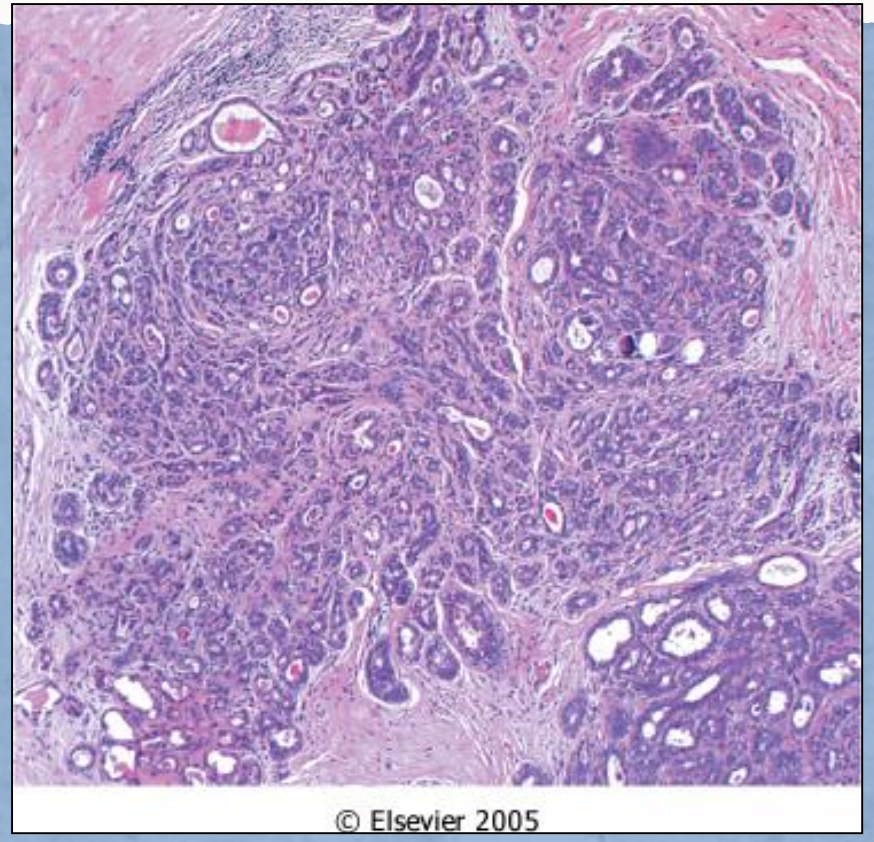
2- Proliferative Disease without Atypia contd…

b) Sclerosing Adenosis.

- Commonly seen as an incidental microscopic finding but may occasionally present as a palpable mass that is mistaken clinically for cancer.
- Calcification is commonly seen in the lesion, so even on mammography it can mimic cancer.
- It is almost always associated with other forms of fibrocystic change.
- Microscopically: adenosis and stromal fibrosis in the lobule which leads to compression and distortion of the lobule.

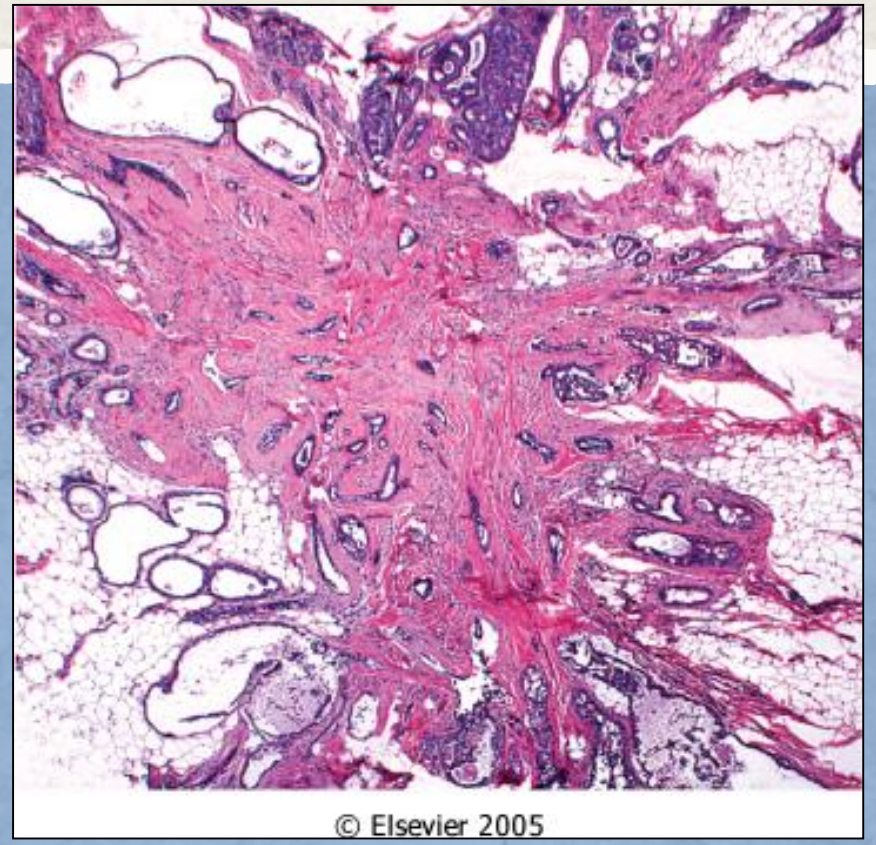


The involved terminal duct lobular unit is enlarged, and the acini are compressed and distorted by the surrounding dense stroma.

2- Proliferative Disease without Atypia contd…

c) ***Complex Sclerosing Lesion (Radial Scar).***

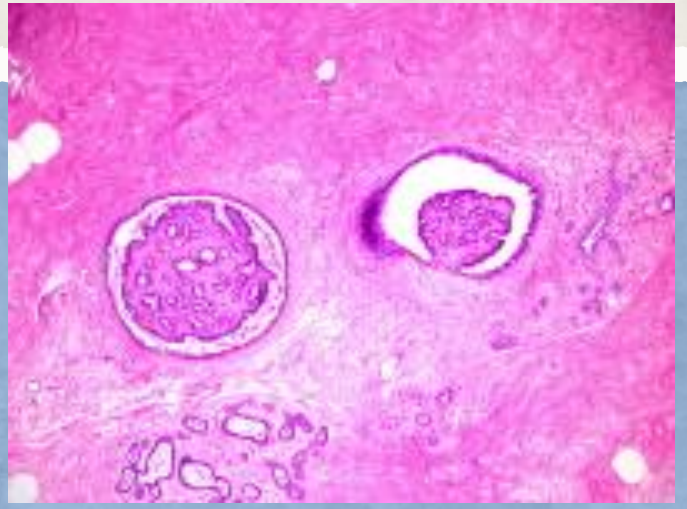
- Radial scars are stellate lesions characterized by a central nidus of entrapped glands in a hyalinized stroma
- They typically present as an irregular mammographic density and closely mimic an invasive carcinoma both mammographically and grossly.
- The word "scar" refers to the morphologic appearance, and not a prior inflammation, trauma or surgery.



There is a central nidus consisting of small tubules entrapped in a densely fibrotic stroma surrounded by radiating arms of epithelium with varying degrees of cyst formation and hyperplasia.

2- Proliferative Disease without Atypia contd…

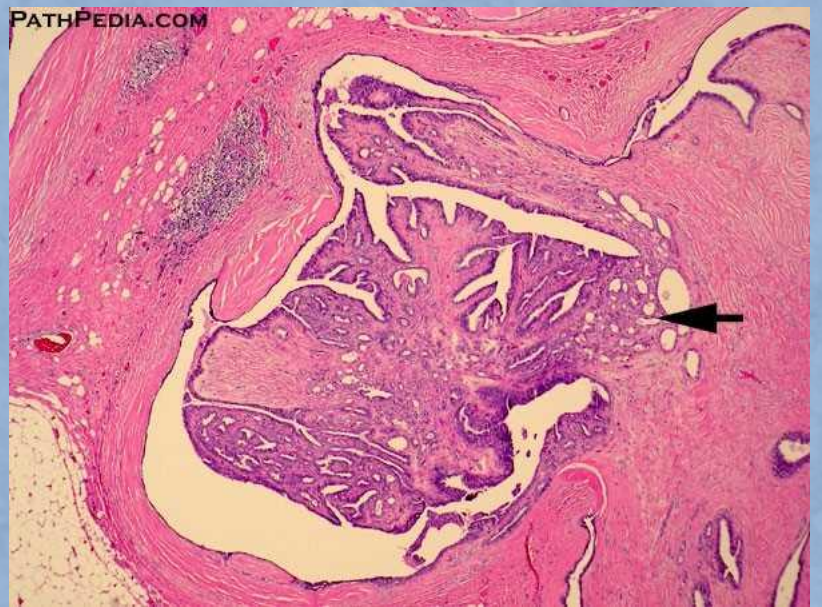
d. Papillomas

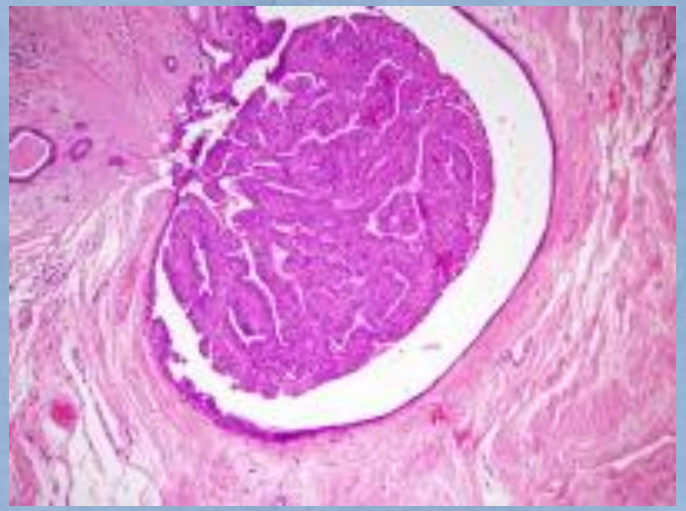


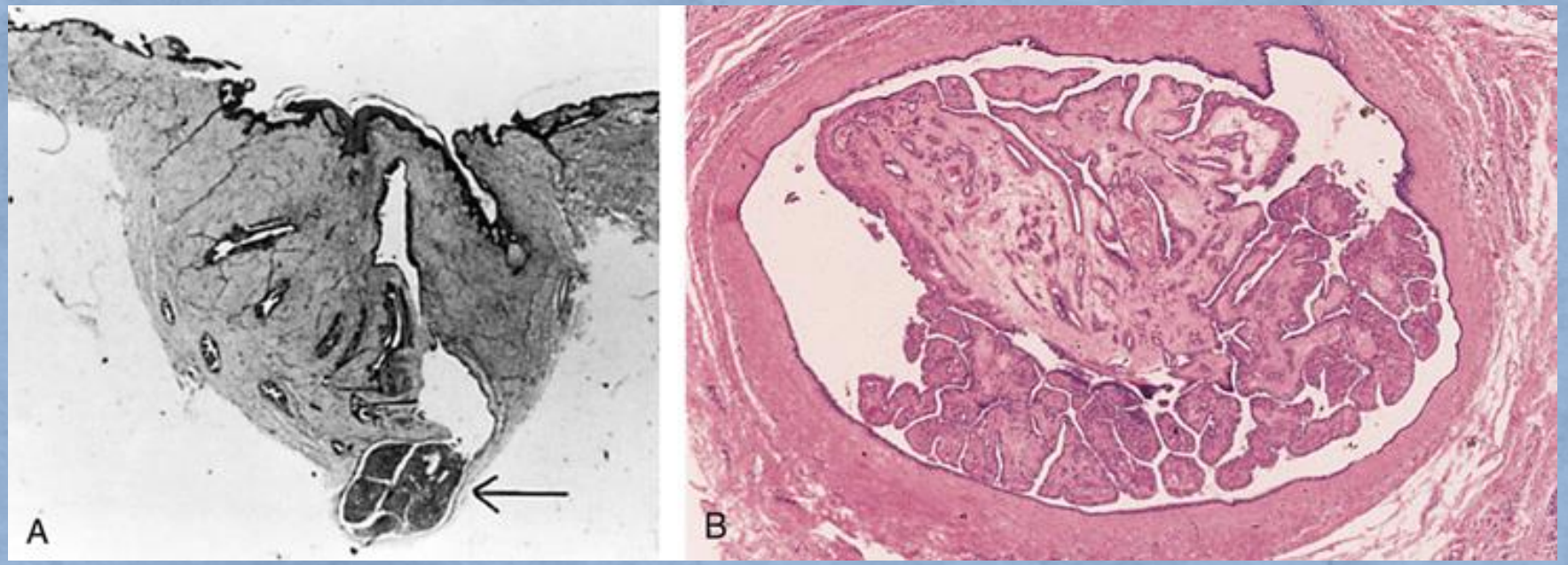
- Is a papillary tumor that arises from the ductal epithelium. It is more common in the large lactiferous ducts (present in the central part of the breast at the nipple) but can also occur in the small ducts in any quadrant of the breast.

a) Large duct papillomas (central papillomas): usually solitary and situated in the lactiferous duct at the nipple. Patients present with bloody nipple discharge and sometimes a subareolar palpable mass.

b) Small duct papillomas: commonly multiple and located deeper within the ductal system. Small duct papillomas have been shown to increase the risk of subsequent carcinoma.







Intraductal papilloma

3- Proliferative breast disease with atypia (Atypical hyperplasia)

- Risk for cancer is 4-5 times normal
- Atypical hyperplasia is a cellular proliferation resembling ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) or lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) but lacking sufficient qualitative or quantitative features for a diagnosis of carcinoma in situ.
- Include two entities
    1. Atypical ductal hyperplasia
    2. Atypical lobular hyperplasia

  Atypical hyperplasia has some of the architectural and cytologic features of carcinoma in situ but lack the complete criteria for that diagnosis and is categorized as ductal or lobular in type

Pathologic lesion	Relative risk of development of invasive carcinoma	comments
NONPROLIFERATIVE BREAST CHANGES (Fibrocystic changes)	do not have an increased risk.	Fibrocystic disease
PROLIFERATIVE DISEASE WITHOUT ATYPIA	1.5 to 2 times normal	a) Epithelial hyperplasia b) Sclerosing adenosis c) Complex sclerosing lesions/radial scar d) Papillomas e) Proliferative fibrocystic disease.
PROLIFERATIVE DISEASE WITH ATYPIA	4.0 to 5.0 times normal	a) ADH b) ALD
CARCINOMA IN SITU	8.0 to 10.0 times normal	a) DCIS b) LCIS

Breast cancer

Breast Carcinoma

- Carcinoma of the breast is one of the most common cancer in women.
- Women who live to age 90 have a one in eight chance of developing breast cancer
- Mammographic screening has dramatically increased the detection of small invasive cancers.
- DCIS by itself is almost exclusively detected by mammography, so the incidence of DCIS is increased with the use of mammography.
- Therefore number of women with invasive/advanced cancer is markedly decreased.
- The mortality rate have started to decline. Currently only 20% of the women with breast cancer are expected to die of the disease.

Breast Cancer: Risk Factors

- **The etiology of breast cancer in most women is unknown but most likely is due to a combination of genetic, hormonal and environmental risk factors.**
- **The major risk factors being hormonal and genetic (family history).**
- **Breast carcinomas can, therefore, be divided into sporadic cases, possibly related to hormonal exposure, and hereditary cases, associated with family history or germ-line mutations**

Hereditary Breast Cancer

- A family history of breast cancer in a first-degree relative.
- About 25% of familial cancers (or around 3% of all breast cancers) can be attributed to two autosomal-dominant genes: BRCA1 and BRCA2

Sporadic Breast Cancer

- The major risk factors for sporadic breast cancer are related to hormone exposure, gender, age at menarche and menopause, reproductive history, breast-feeding, and exogenous estrogens. The majority of these cancers occur in postmenopausal women and in overexpression of estrogen.

Breast Cancer: Risk Factors

1) **Age:** increase incidence in older women. Breast cancer is rare before 25 yrs, except in familial forms. Majority of cases occur in women >50 yrs of age.

2) **Estrogen Exposure:** Factors associated with exposure to increased levels of estrogen have been shown to increase a woman's risk for breast cancer. These factors include:
   - early age at menarche: the younger the age at menarche, the higher her risk of breast cancer
   - late age at menopause
   - nulliparity
   - late age at first child-birth: the earlier a woman has her first birth, the lower her lifetime risk for breast cancer. A woman who has her first birth after 30 years has an increased risk.
   - Also postmenopausal hormone replacement slightly increases the risk

3) **First Degree relative with Breast Cancer** .
   - Women with history of cancer in first degree relative (mother, sister, aunt or daughter) are at higher risk of breast cancer. The risk increases with the number of affected first degree relatives.
   - At least two genes that predispose to breast cancer have been identified—***BRCA 1*** and ***2***

   NOTE: majority of cancers occur in women without such history.

4) **Race and Geographic influence :** incidence of breast cancer is lower in African American women . Generally Caucasians have the highest rate of breast cancers. Breast cancer is more common in Western industrialized countries than in developing countries.

Breast Cancer: Risk Factors

5) **Radiation exposure:** Higher rate of breast cancer

6) **History of breast cancer:** Women who have had a breast cancer or have cancer in the other breast are at increased risk of developing a second primary breast cancer.

7) **History of Other Cancer:** women who have a history of ovarian or endometrial cancer are at high risk.

8) **Certain Breast Disease:** As noted previously women with certain types of benign breast disease are at risk. Especially a breast biopsy diagnosis of atypical hyperplasia increases the risk for breast cancer

9) **Dietary factors** e.g. high fat intake and excessive alcohol consumption, and exposure to ionizing radiation have also been proposed as risk factors

10) **Obesity:** may play a role

11) **Exercise:** some studies showed decreased risk with excercise

12) **Breast feeding:** the longer the women breast feed, the lower the risk.

13) **Environmental toxins:** pesticides .

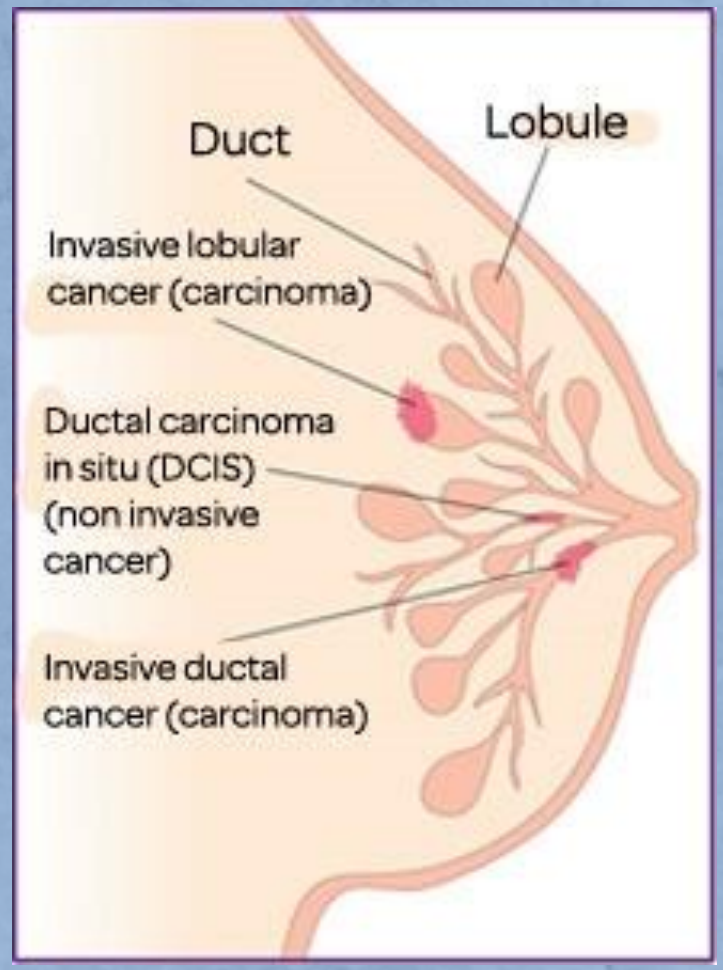
14) **Tobacco:** Not associated with breast cancer, but associated with the development of peri-ductal mastitis, or sub-areolar abscess.

Table 19-4. Breast Cancer Risk Factors

Factor	Relative Risk
Well-Established Influences	
Geographic factors	Varies in different areas
Age	Increases after age 30yr
Family history	
First-degree relative with breast cancer	1.2-3.0
Premenopausal	3.1
Premenopausal and bilateral	8.5-9.0
Postmenopausal	1.5
Postmenopausal and bilateral	4.0-5.4
Menstrual history	
Age at menarche <12yr	1.3
Age at menopause >55yr	1.5-2.0
Pregnancy	
First live birth from ages 25 to 29yr	1.5
First live birth after age 30yr	1.9
First live birth after age 35yr	2.0-3.0
Nulliparous	3.0
Benign breast disease	
Proliferative disease without atypia	1.6
Proliferative disease with atypical hyperplasia	>2.0
Lobular carcinoma in situ	6.9-12.0
Less Well-Established Influences	
Exogenous estrogens	
Oral contraceptives	
Obesity	
High-fat diet	
Alcohol consumption	
Cigarette smoking	

Breast Carcinoma: Classification

- Almost all (majority) are adenocarcinoma
- There are two major types:
  - Ductal
  - lobular
- Divided into
  - Carcinoma in situ (non-invasive)
  - Invasive carcinoma



http://iam-amother.blogspot.com/2013/09/types-of-breast-cancer.html

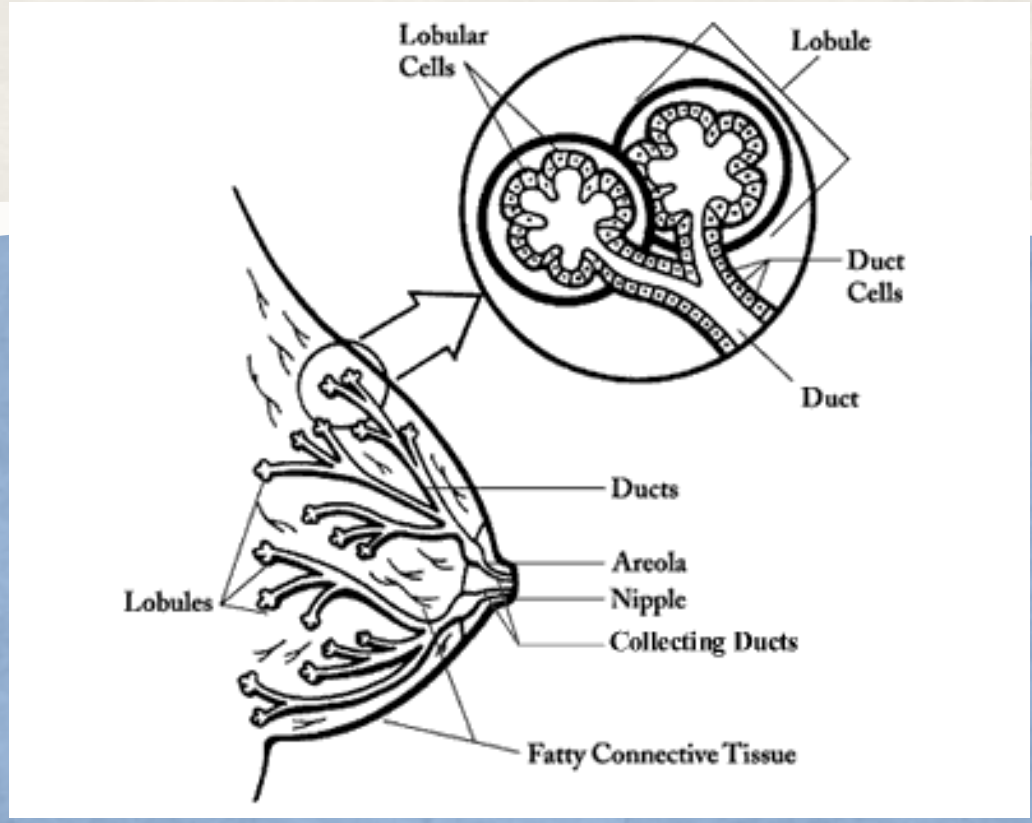
CARCINOMA IN SITU

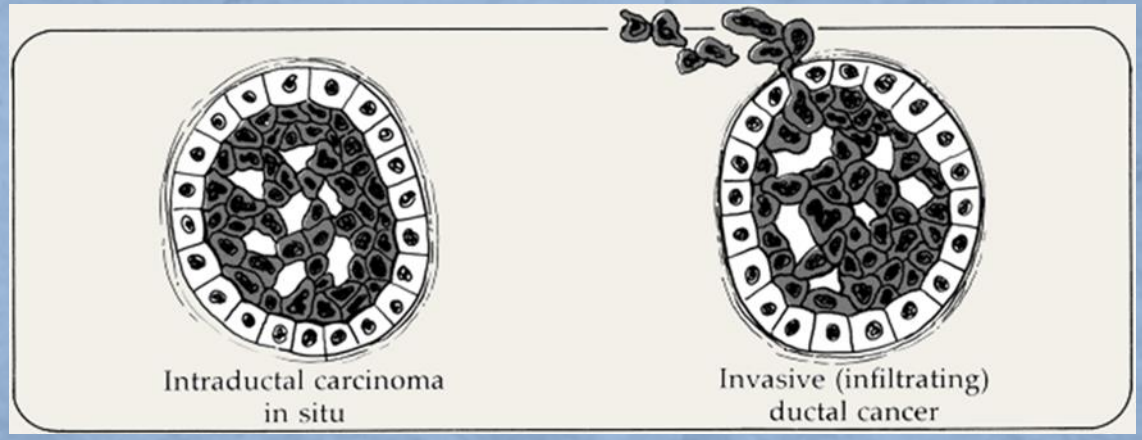
Carcinoma in situ

This is epithelial proliferation that is still confined to the TDLU, has not invaded beyond the basement membrane and is therefore incapable of metastasis.

There are two subtypes:

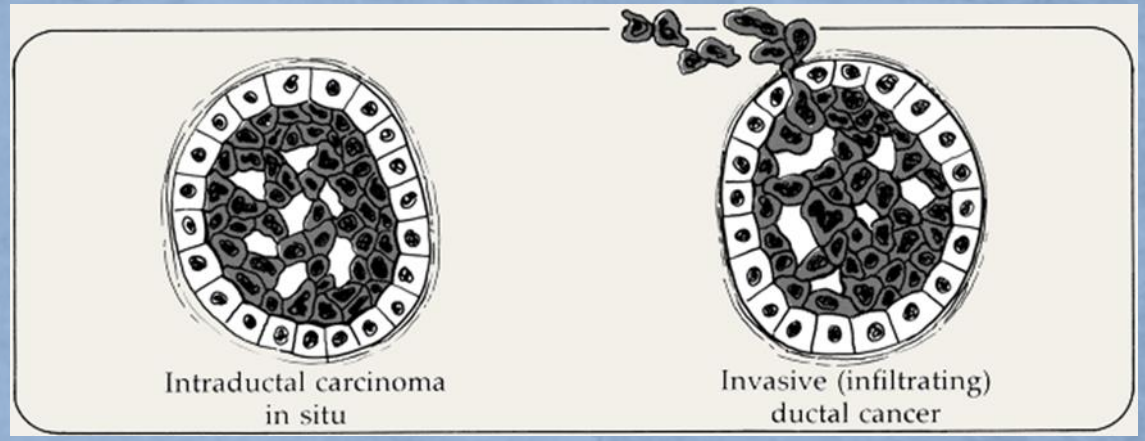
1) Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) or intraductal carcinoma (80%).
2) 2) Lobular carcinoma in situ (20%).





Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS)

- DCIS is the **non-invasive** proliferation of malignant cells within the duct system without breaching the underlying basement membrane
- They have a very high risk of development of subsequent invasive carcinoma.
- The tumor distends and distorts the ducts.
- Age range: same age range of invasive breast carcinoma.
- Often ***multifocal***—malignant cells can spread widely through the ductal system without breaching the basement membrane
- Women with DCIS are at risk of recurrent DCIS following treatment.



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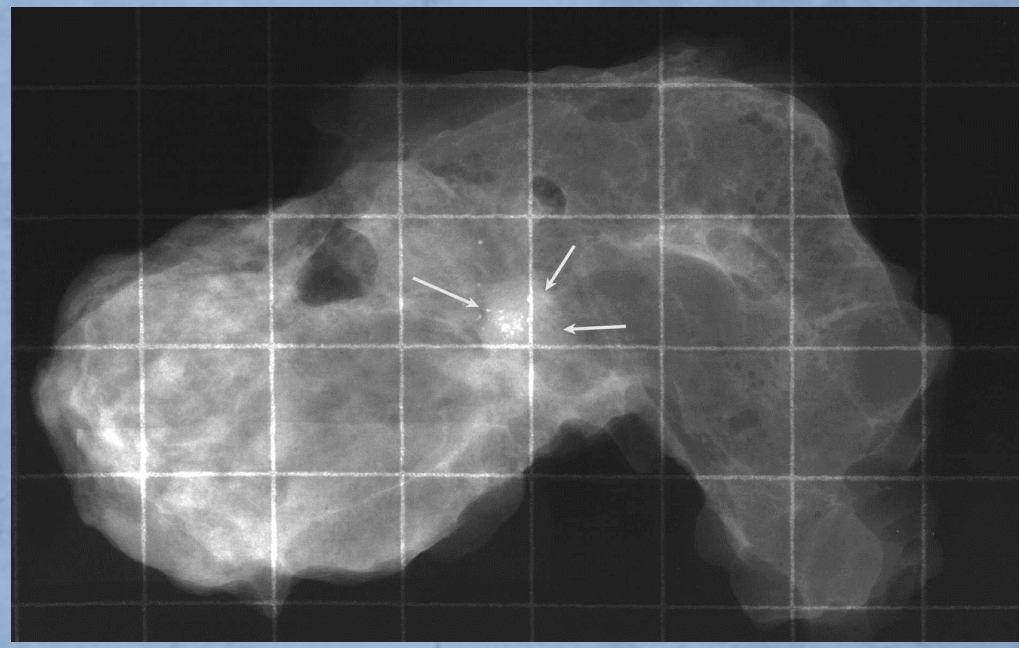
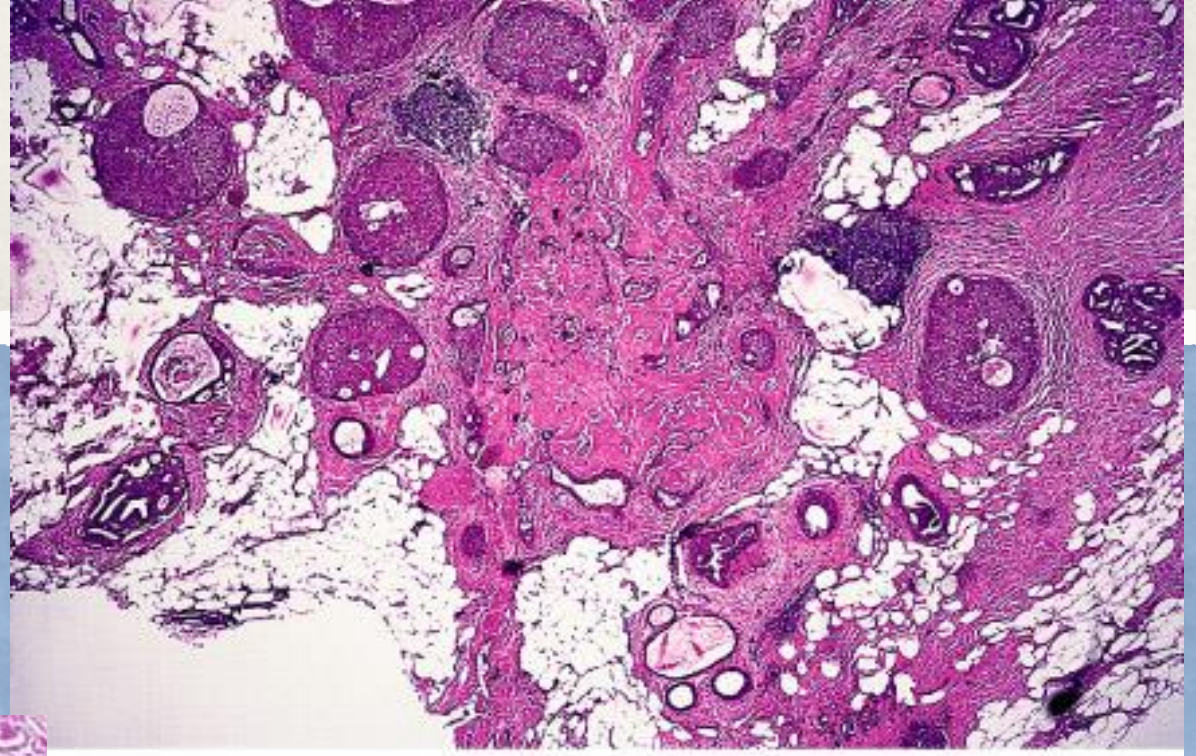
DCIS(Ductal Carcinoma In Situ)

- On mammography DCIS frequently shows micro-calcifications. Mammography is a very sensitive diagnostic procedure for detecting DCIS since majority of DCIS are not palpable. Less frequently they can present as a mammographic density or a vaguely palpable mass or nipple discharge.
- Because of mammography there has been a marked increase the detection and diagnosis of DCIS in the last two decades.
- ***Different patterns/subtypes*** of DCIS can be seen e.g.
  - ***comedo*** (central necrosis***);***
  - ***cribiform*** (cells arranged around "punched-out" spaces); ***papillary,***
  - ***micropapillary*** and
  - ***solid*** (cells fill spaces)
- DCIS can be of ***different grades*** i.e. low, intermediate and high grade



Microcalcification of DCIS

DCIS



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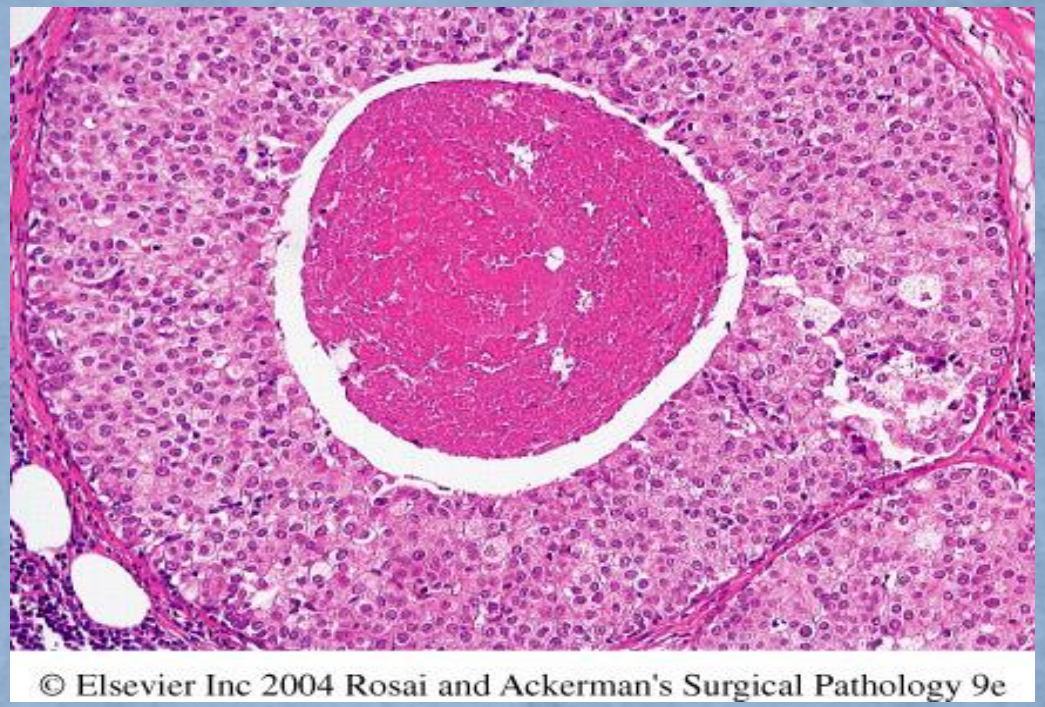

Comedo DCIS: is characterized by large central zones of necrosis with calcified debris. This type of DCIS is most frequently detected as radiologic calcifications. Less commonly, the surrounding desmoplastic response results in an ill-defined palpable mass or a mammographic density.

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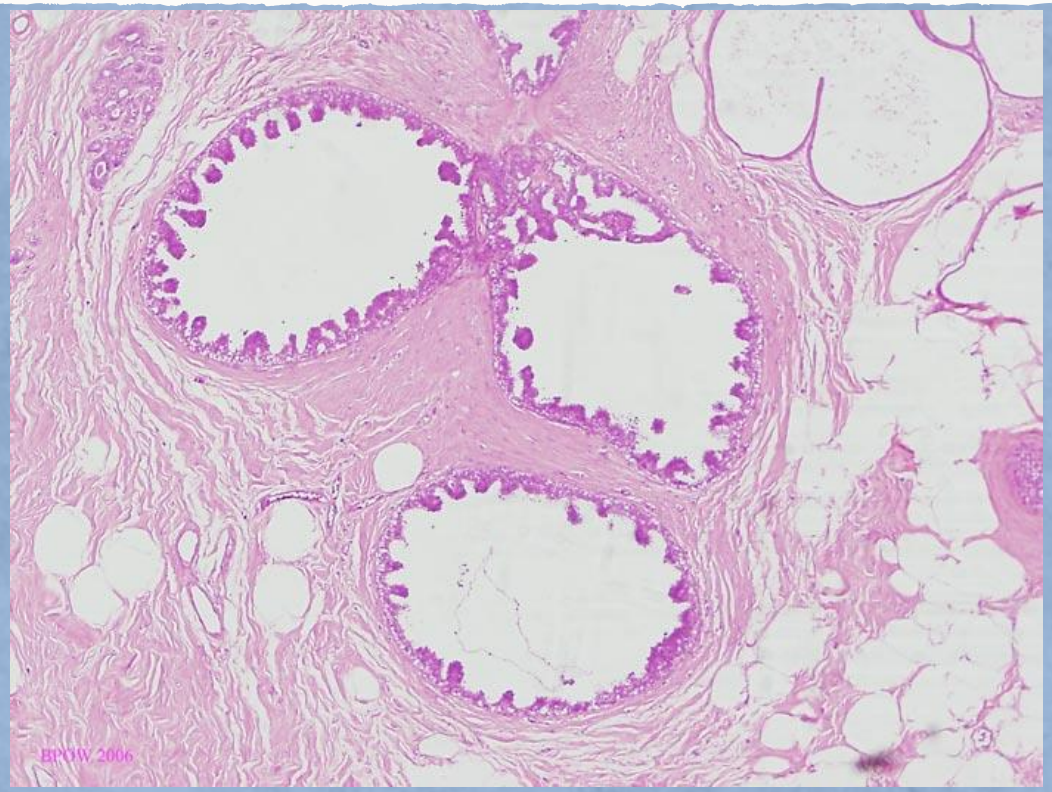
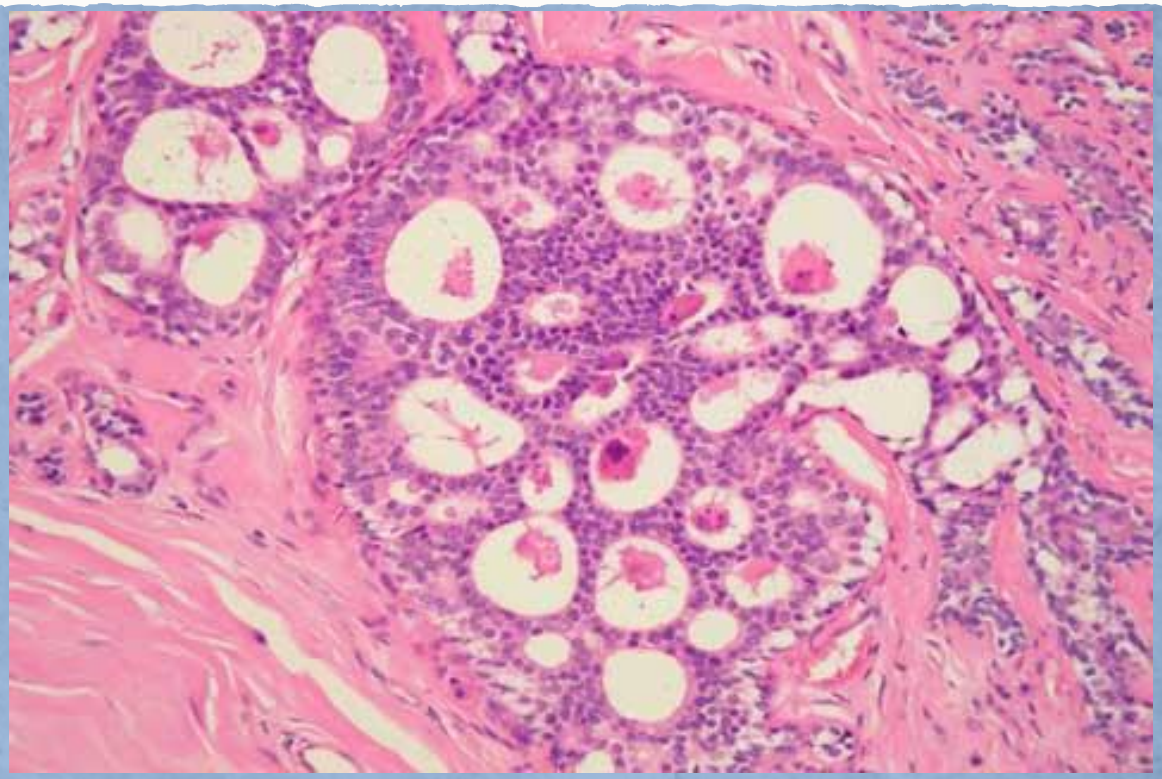
DCIS



Micropapillary DCIS.



Cribriform DCIS comprises cells forming round, regular ("cookie cutter") spaces. The lumens are often filled with calcifying secretory material.

http://www.breastpathology.info/Carcinoma%20in%20situ.html#images

DCIS

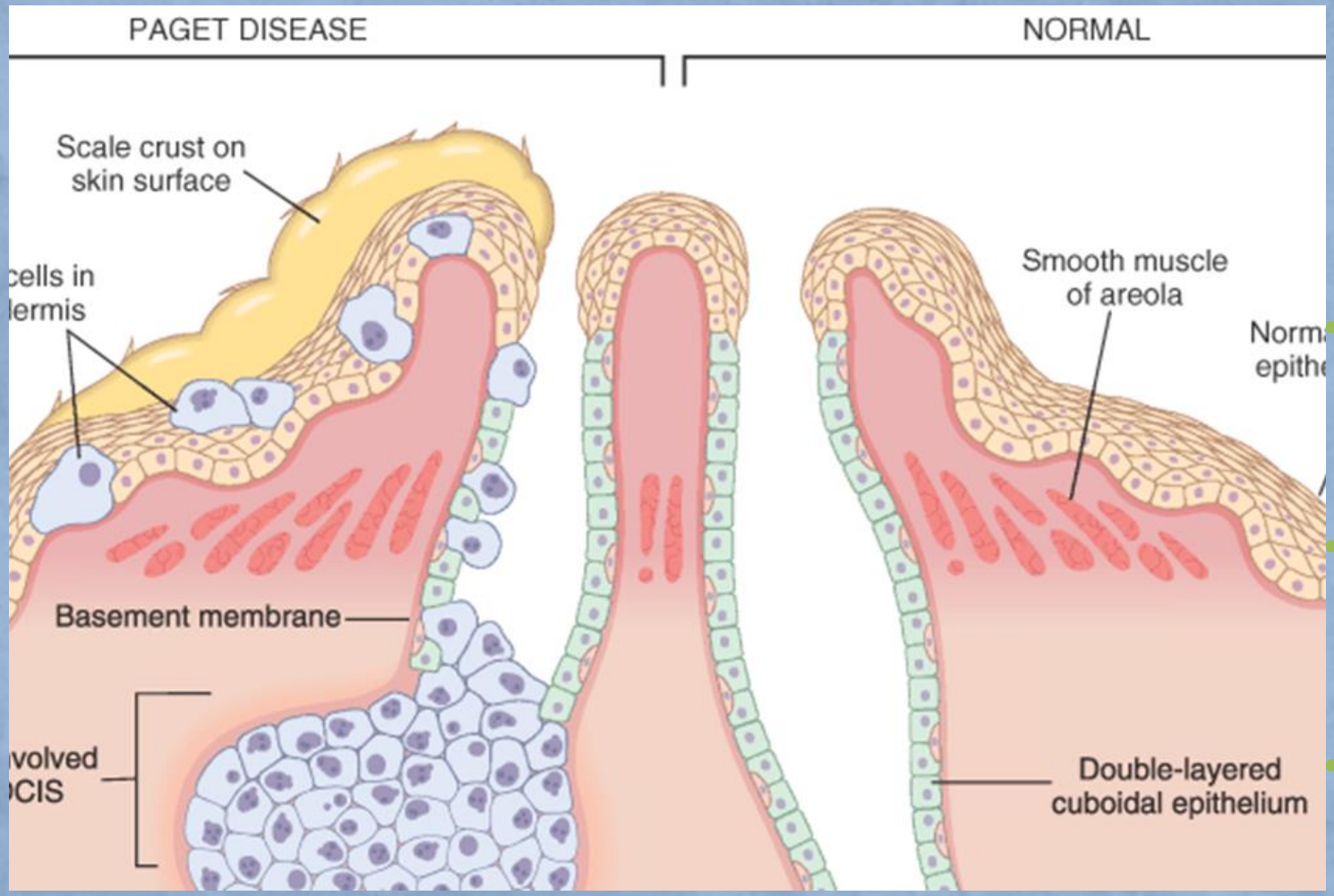
Clinical behavior: may vary depending on the subtype and the grade

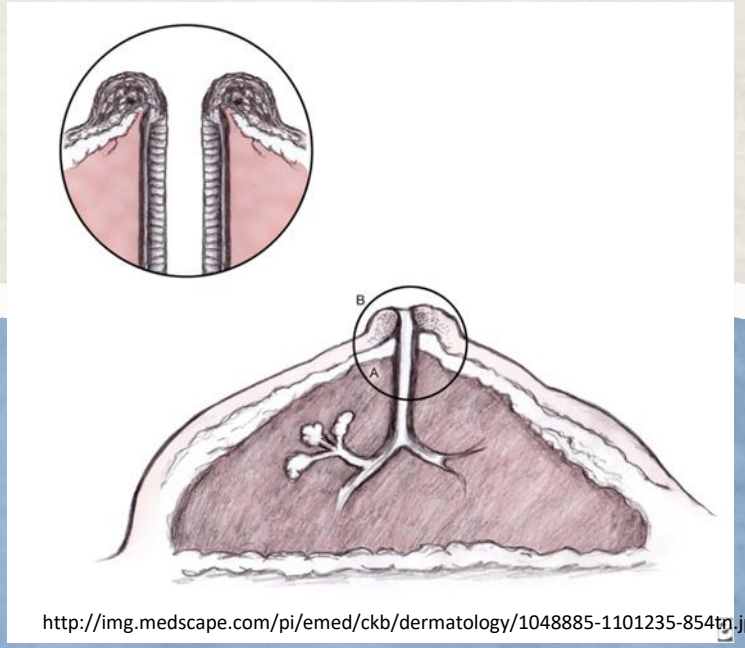
- Comedocarcinoma has essentially a 100% chance of becoming invasive if left untreated.
- Pure cribriform/micropapillary carries only a 30% chance of becoming invasive carcinoma.

Treatment:

- Wide local excision
- mastectomy

Paget’s Disease





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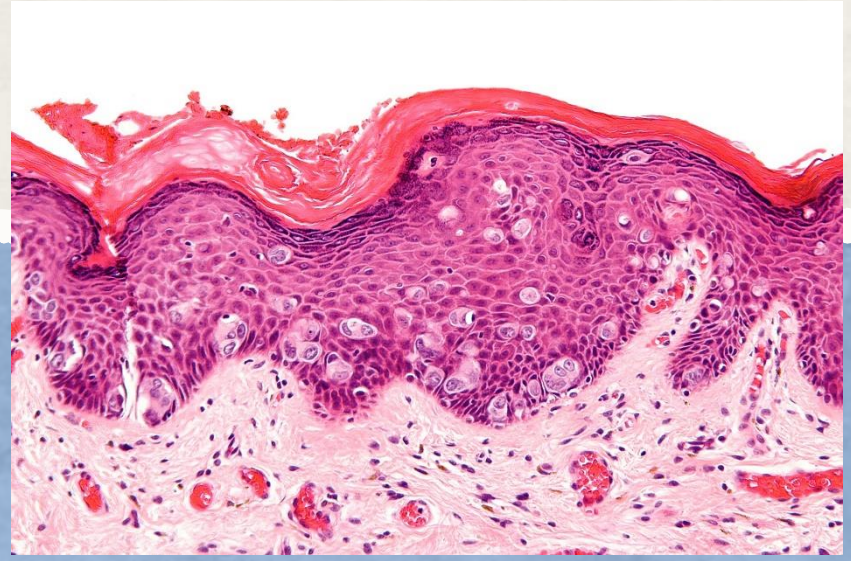
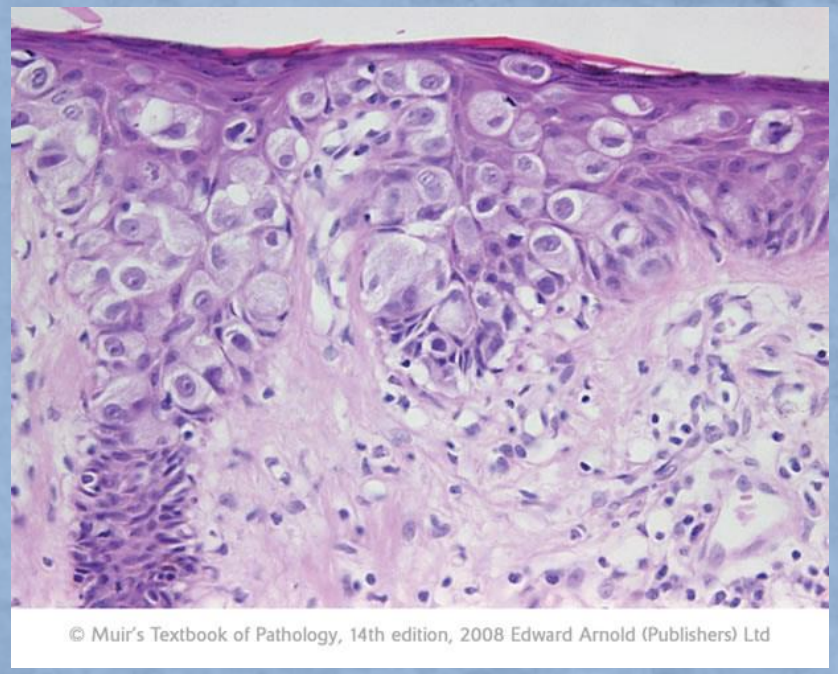
- Paget's disease of the breast is a rare type of **breast cancer** that is characterized by a red, scaly eczematous lesion on the nipple and surrounding areola.
- Paget’s disease may be subtle or appear as an eroded and weeping erythematous eruption. Pruritus is common and it might be mistaken for eczema.
- Malignant cells are called Paget cells and are found scattered in the epidermis.

Pagets disease

- The histologic hallmark of Paget's disease of the nipple is the infiltration of the epidermis by large neoplastic ductal cells with abundant cytoplasm, pleomorphic nuclei and prominent nucleoli. The cells usually stain positively for mucin.
- Paget cells extend from DCIS within the ductal system into nipple skin without crossing the basement membrane
- Palpable mass can be seen in 50% of women with Paget disease indicating an underlying invasive carcinoma near by.



"Extramammary Paget disease - high mag" by Nephron - Own work. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/



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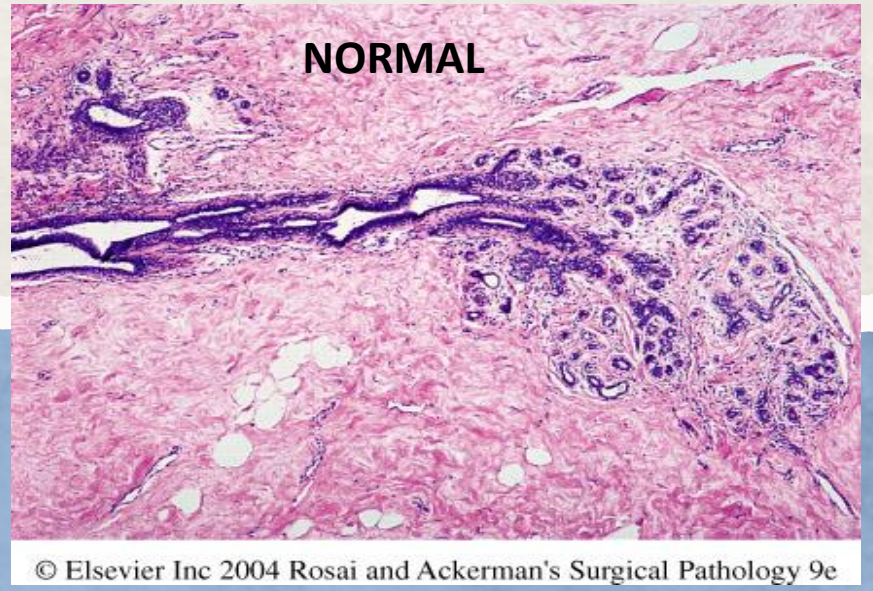
Lobular Carcinoma in Situ (LCIS)

- LCIS alone is always an incidental finding in breast biopsy performed for another reason.
- LCIS is uncommon.
- LCIS tends to be multicentric and bilateral and therefore subsequent carcinomas can occur both breasts.
- LCIS does not form a palpable mass and cannot be detected clinically on palpation or on gross pathological examination.
- Microcalcifications in LCIS are infrequent and so mammography is not useful for detection.
- Histology: monomorphic population of small, rounded cells fills and expands the acini of lobules. The underlying lobular architecture can still be recognized.

Clinical behavior

- If LCIS is left untreated, about 30% of women develop an invasive cancer within 20 years of diagnosis. The invasive cancer that develops is usually lobular (but can be ductal too).
- LCIS is a marker of increased cancer in both breasts



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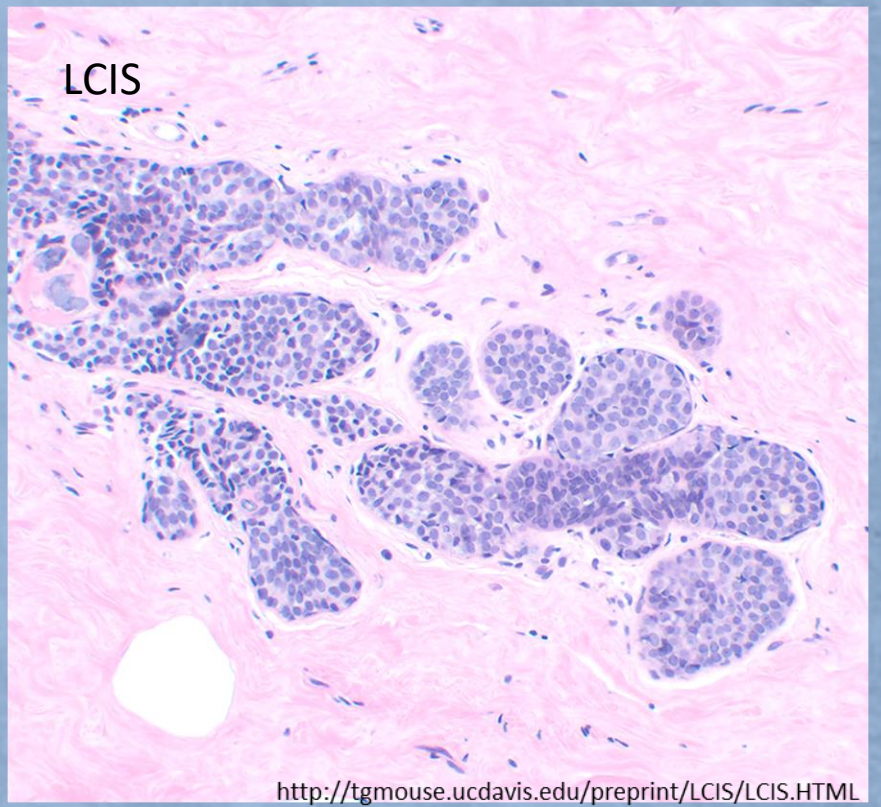
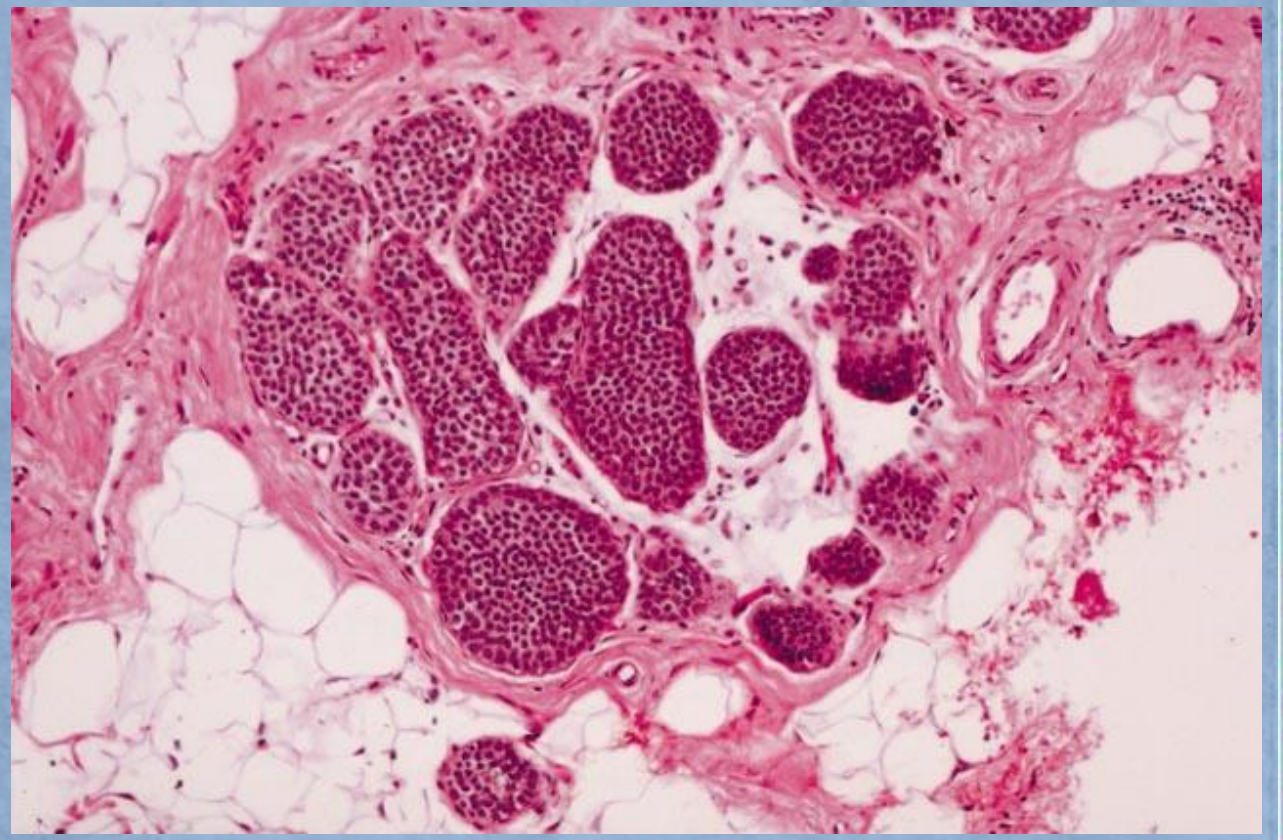
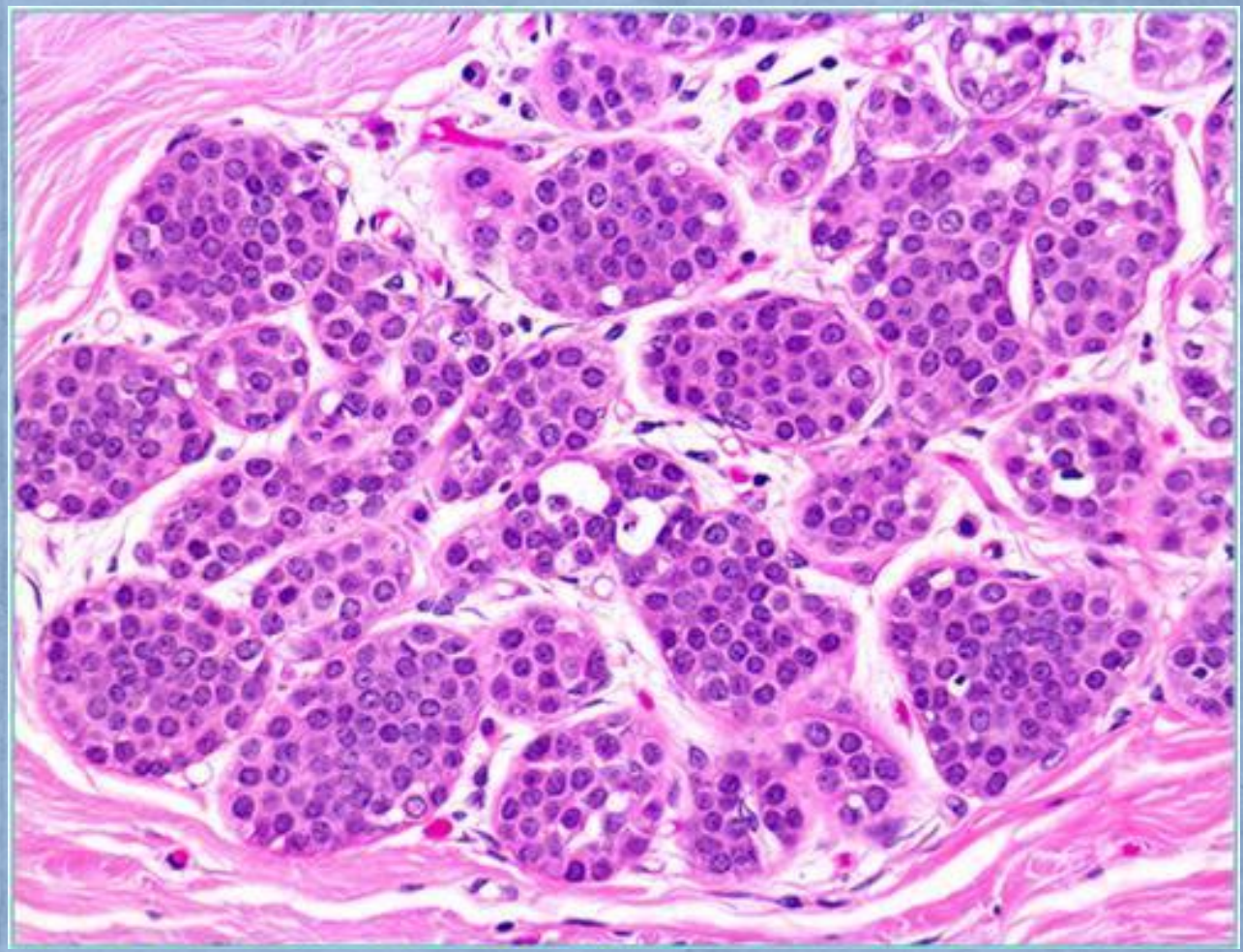


LCIS



FROM: **Lobular Carcinoma *In Situ* Diagnosed By Core Needle Biopsy: When Should It Be Excised?**
Lavinia P Middleton, Shakeitha Grant, Tanya Stephens, Carol B Stelling, Nour Sneige and Aysegul A Sahi.Mod Pathol 2003;16(2):120–129n http://www.nature.com/modpathol/journal/v16/n2/images/3880726f2.jpg



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INVASIVE BREAST CARCINOMA

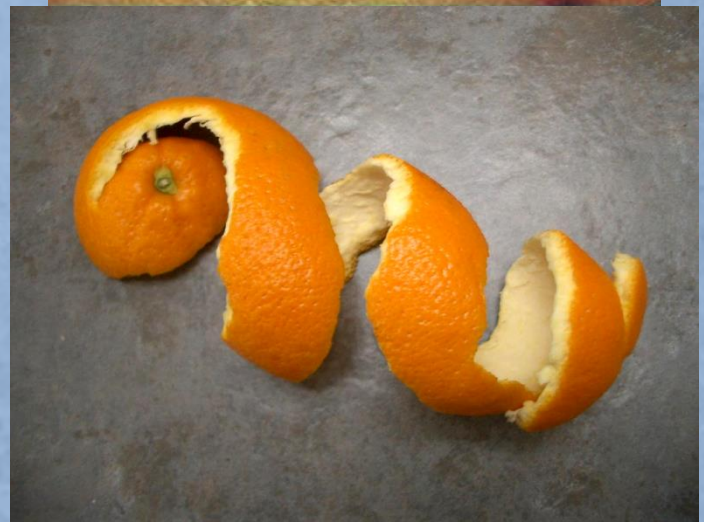
Invasive Breast Carcinoma: Classification

Invasive breast carcinoma is tumor that has extended across them basement membrane. This permits access to lymphatics and vessels and Therefore the potential to metastasize. Invasive breast carcinoma is subdivided into:

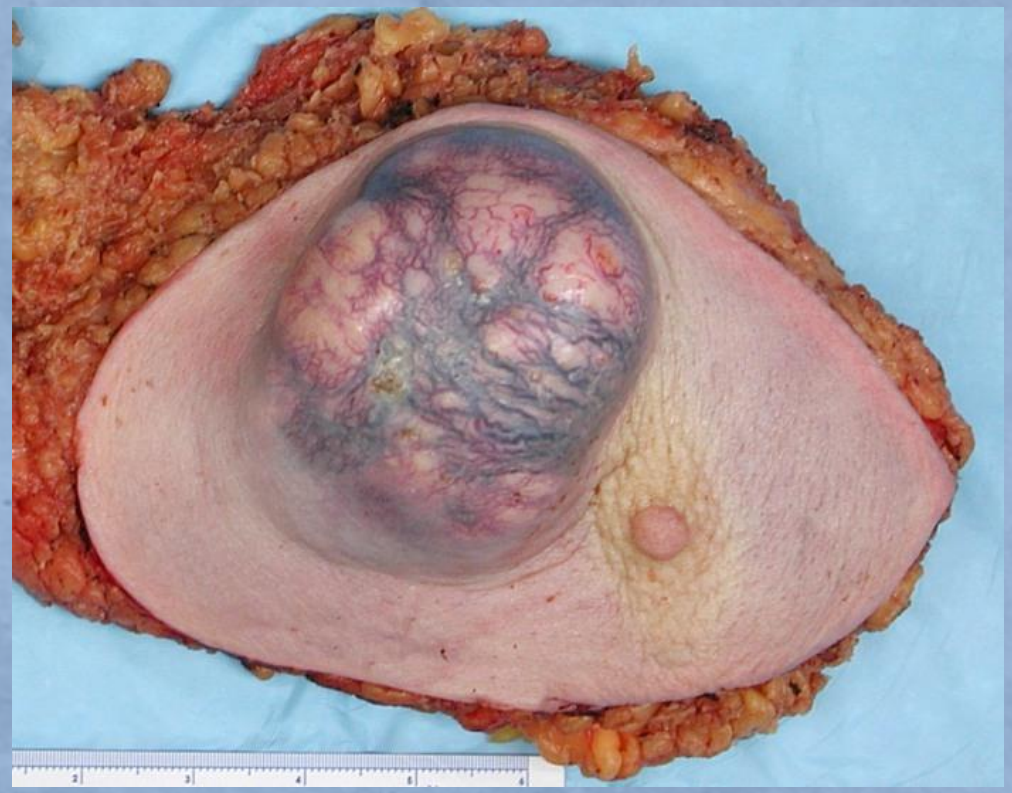
- NOS Ductal 80% (NOS= no otherwise specified)
- Lobular 10%
- Tubular 6%
- Mucinous(Colloid) 2%
- Medullary 2%
- Papillary 1%
- Metaplastic Carcinoma 1%

CLINICAL FEATURES OF INVASIVE BREAST CANCER

- Palpable mass.
- About half of the patients will have axillary lymph node metastases.
- Larger carcinomas may be fixed to the chest wall or cause dimpling of the skin.
- Lymphatics may become involved and the lymphatic drainage of that area and the overlying skin gets blocked causing lymphedema and thickening of the skin, a change referred to as peau d'orange.
- When the tumor involves the central portion of the breast, retraction of the nipple may develop.
- On mammography, invasive carcinomas commonly present as a density.
- Invasive carcinomas presenting as mammographic calcifications without an associated density are usually very small in size.
- The term "inflammatory carcinoma" refers to the clinical presentation of a carcinoma extensively involving dermal lymphatics, resulting in an enlarged erythematous breast. The diagnosis is made on clinical grounds and does not correlate with a specific histologic type of carcinoma



Invasive carcinoma



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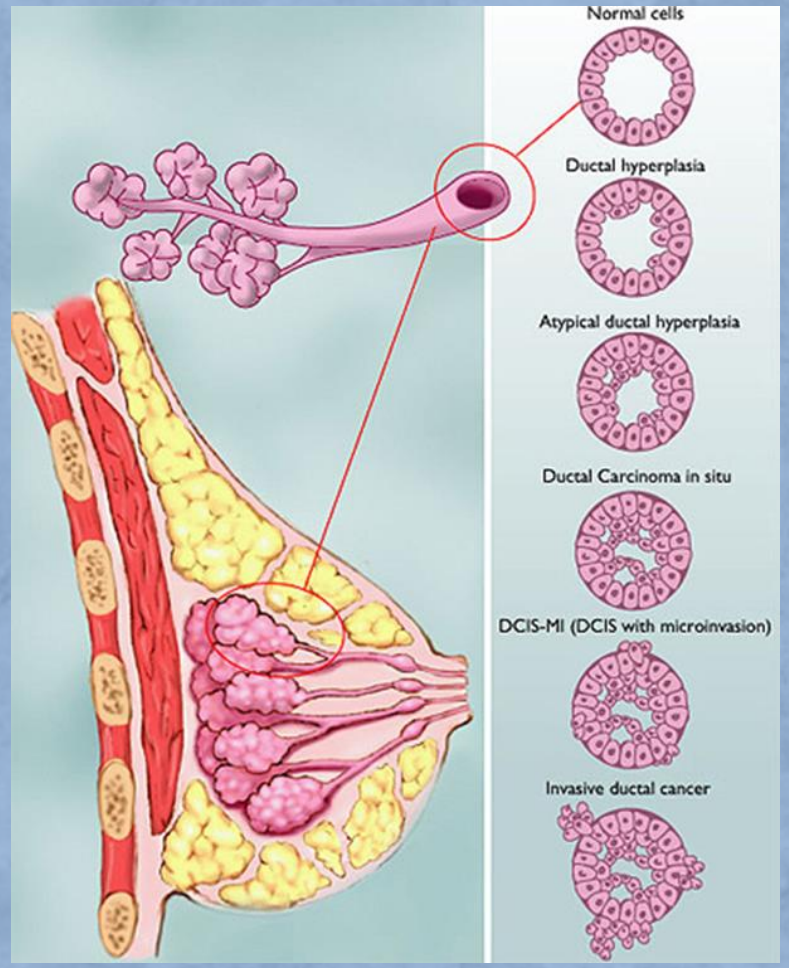
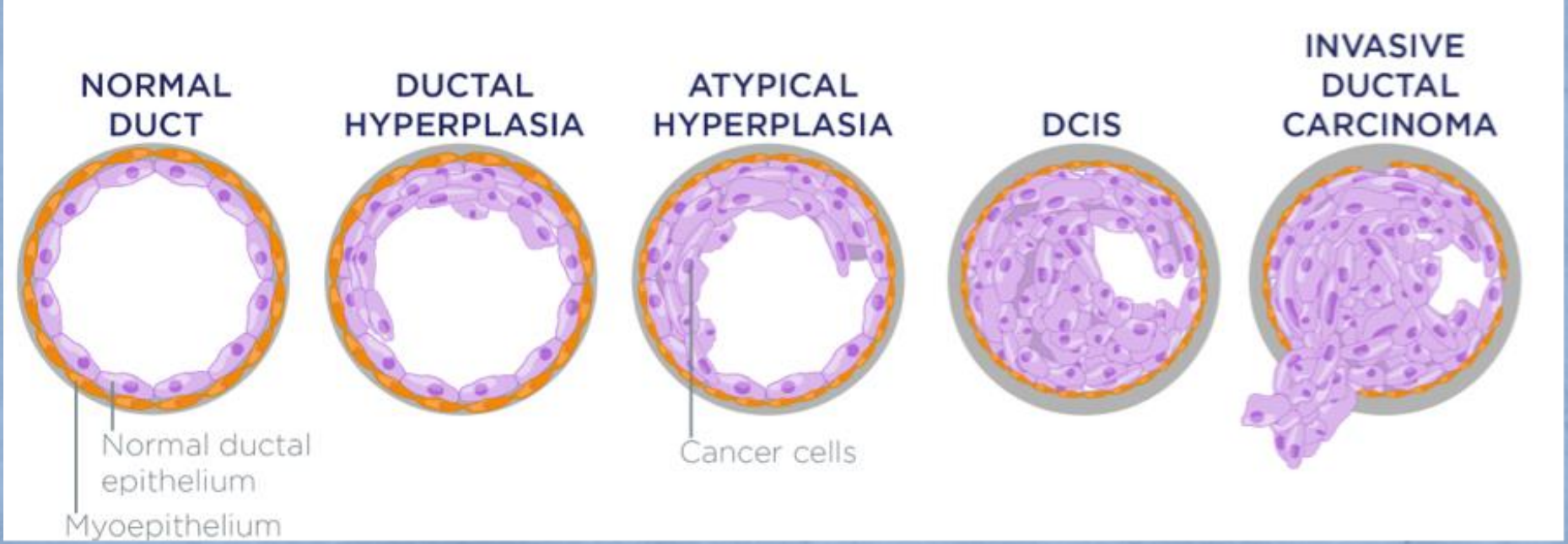
Invasive Ductal Carcinoma, NOS

- **Invasive Ductal Carcinoma, NOS** is the commonest type of breast cancer, forming up to 80% of these cancers.
- Most of these tumors induce a marked fibroblastic (desmoplastic) stromal reaction to the invading tumor cells producing a palpable mass with hard consistency (scirrhous carcinoma). And therefore a palpable mass is the most common presentation.
- The tumor shows an infiltrative attachment to the surrounding structures and may cause dimpling of the skin (due to traction on suspensory ligaments) or nipple retraction.



Invasive Ductal Carcinoma



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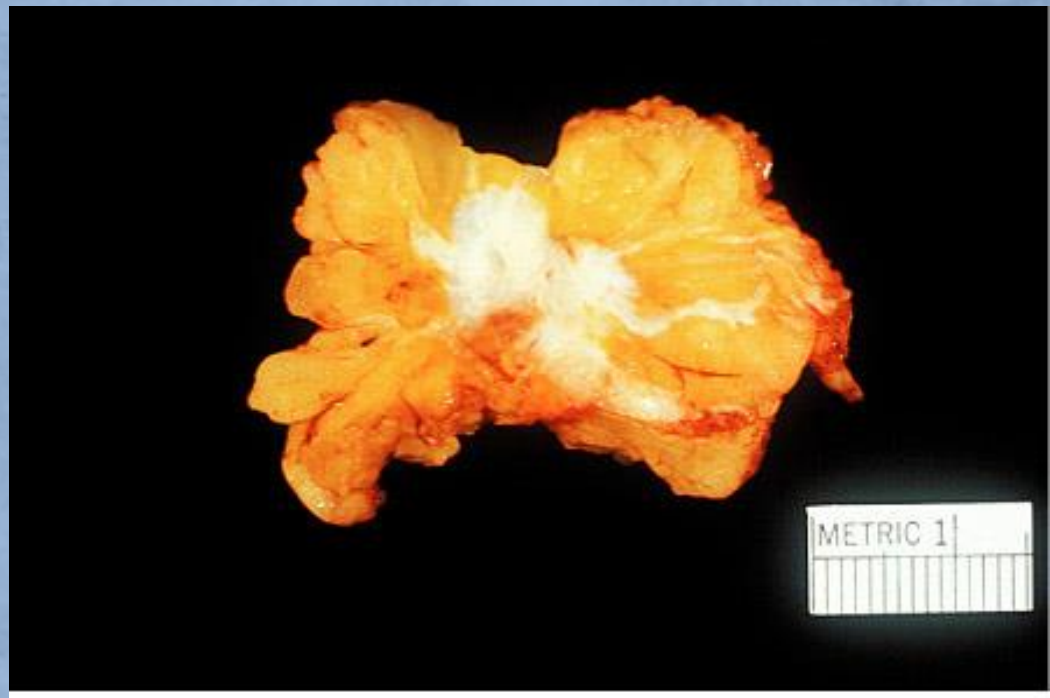
Invasive Ductal Carcinoma, NOS: gross

- Grossly: tumor is firm, hard, with an irregular border.
- Cut surface: gritty and shows irregular margins with stellate infiltration (sometimes it can be soft and well demarcated) and in the center there are small foci of chalky white stroma and occasionally calcifications
- Characteristic grating sound when cut or scraped
- Accompanied by varying amounts of DCIS



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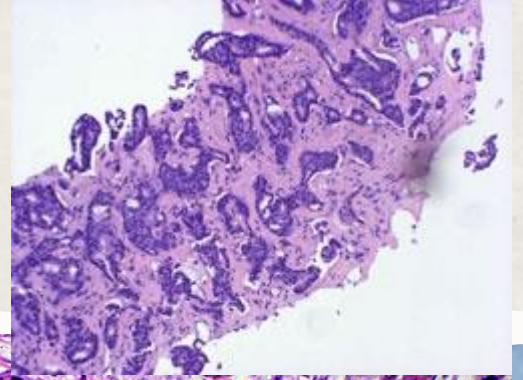
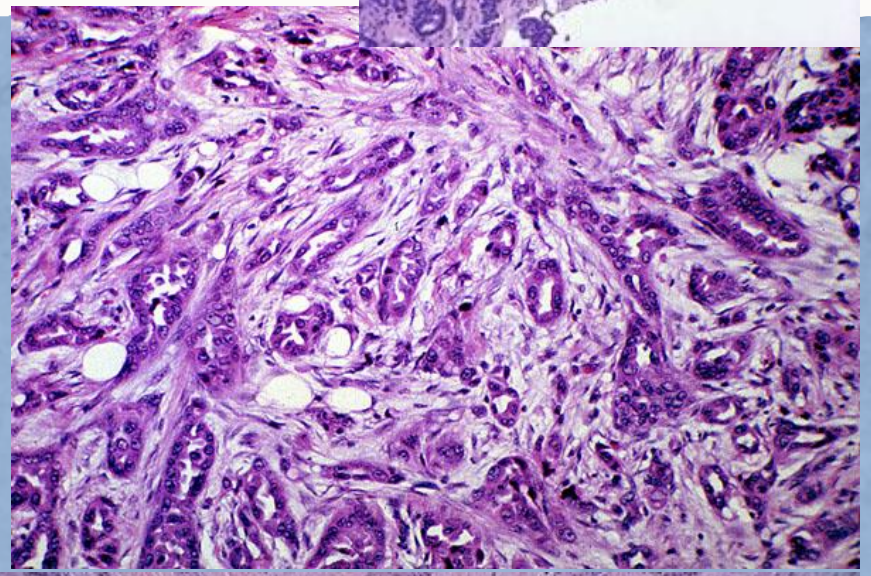
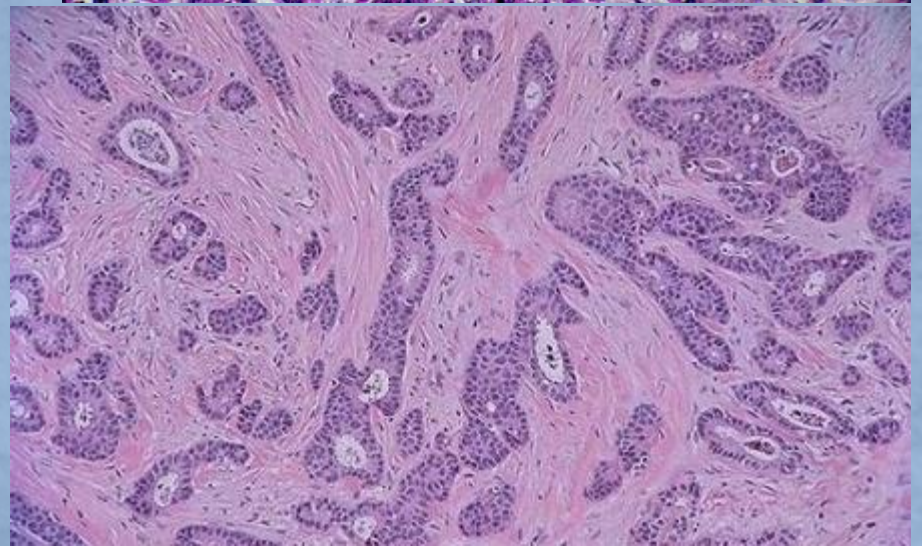
Invasive Ductal Carcinoma, NOS: histology

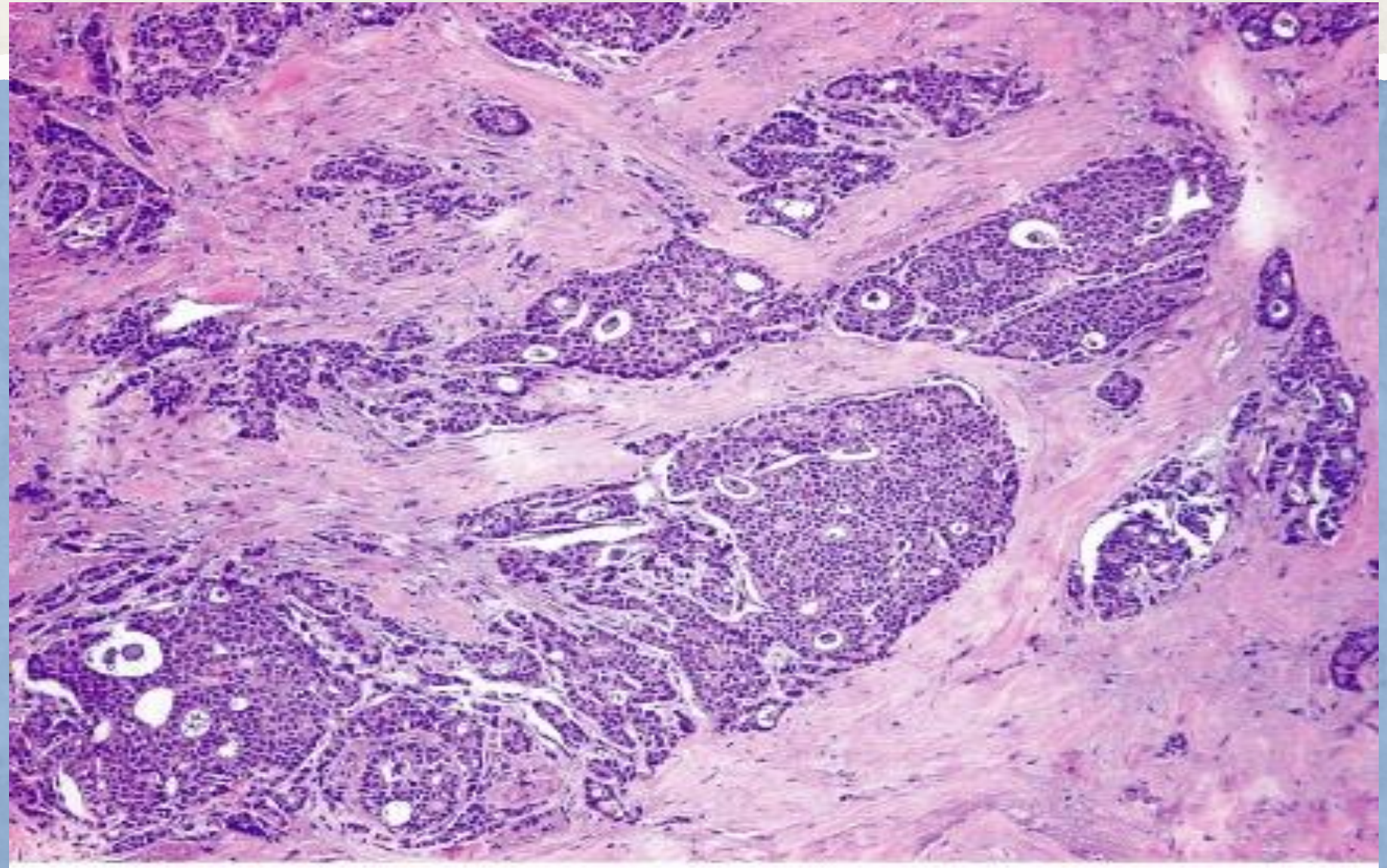






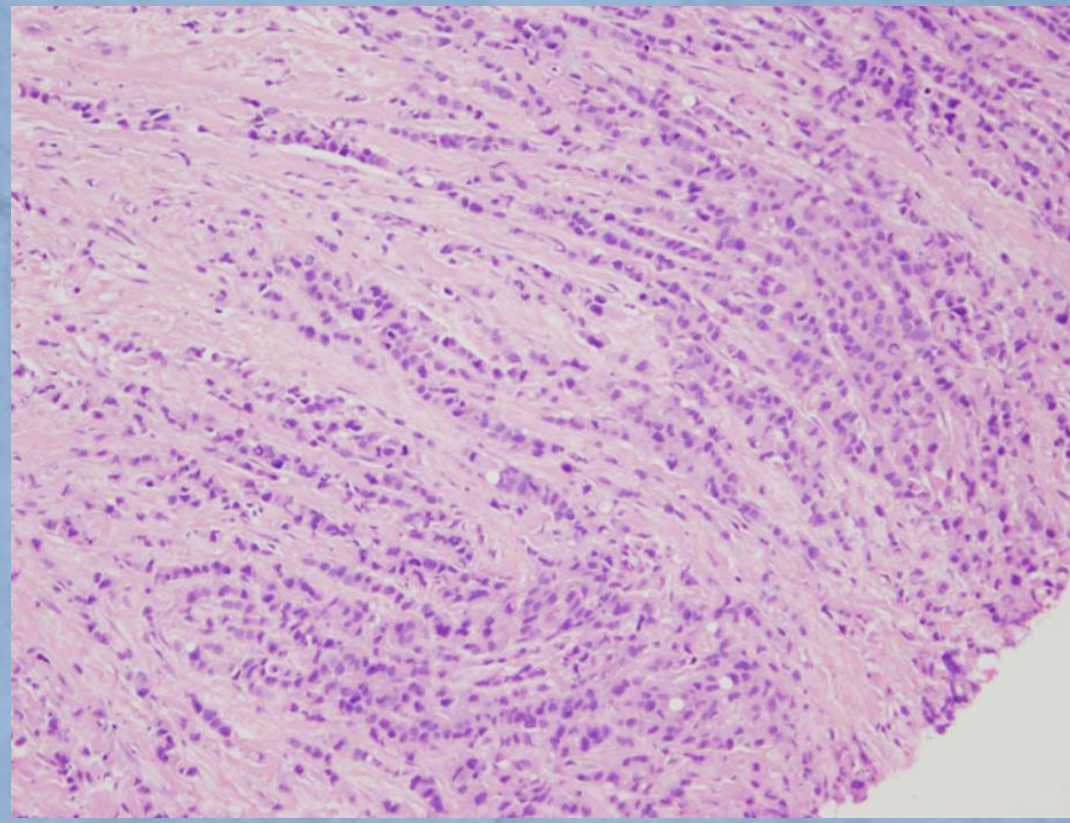
- Histology: the tumor cells are large and pleomorphic usually within a dense stroma. They are adenocarcinomas and so they show glandular formation but can also be arranged in cords or sheets of cells.
- The tumors range from well differentiated to moderate or poorly differentiated.
- Carcinomas associated with a large amount of DCIS require large excisions with wide margins to reduce local recurrences

Invasive ductal carcinoma



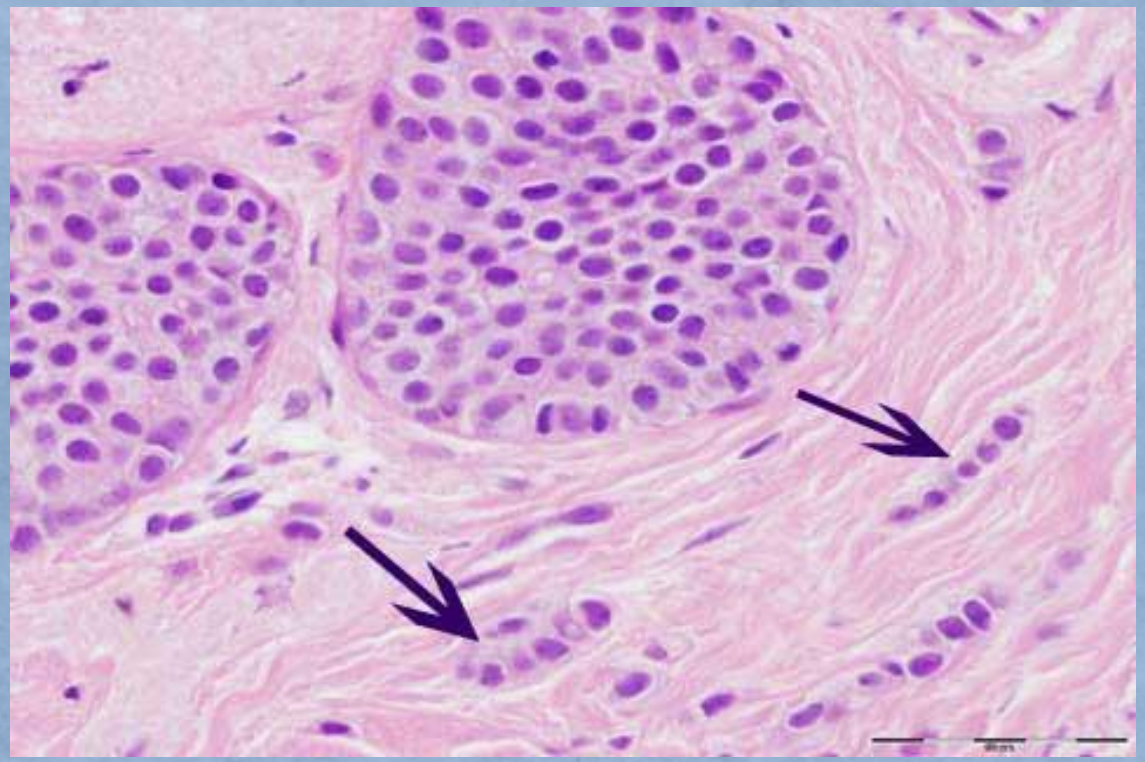
Invasive Lobular Carcinoma

- It is the second most common type of invasive breast cancer forming up to 10% of breast cancers.
- The tumor may occur alone or in combination with ductal carcinoma.
- It tends to be **bilateral** and **multicentric.**
- The amount of stromal reaction to the tumor varies from marked fibroblastic (desmoplastic) response to little reaction and therefore the presentation varies from a discrete mass to a subtle, diffuse indurated area. Most are firm to hard with irregular margins
- Histology: single infiltrating malignant cells, forming a line often one cell width (called as indian file pattern). No tubules or papillary formation.



http://www.breastpathology.info/Lobular%20Carcinoma%20Variants.html

Invasive lobular carcinoma with area of lobular carcinoma in situ also



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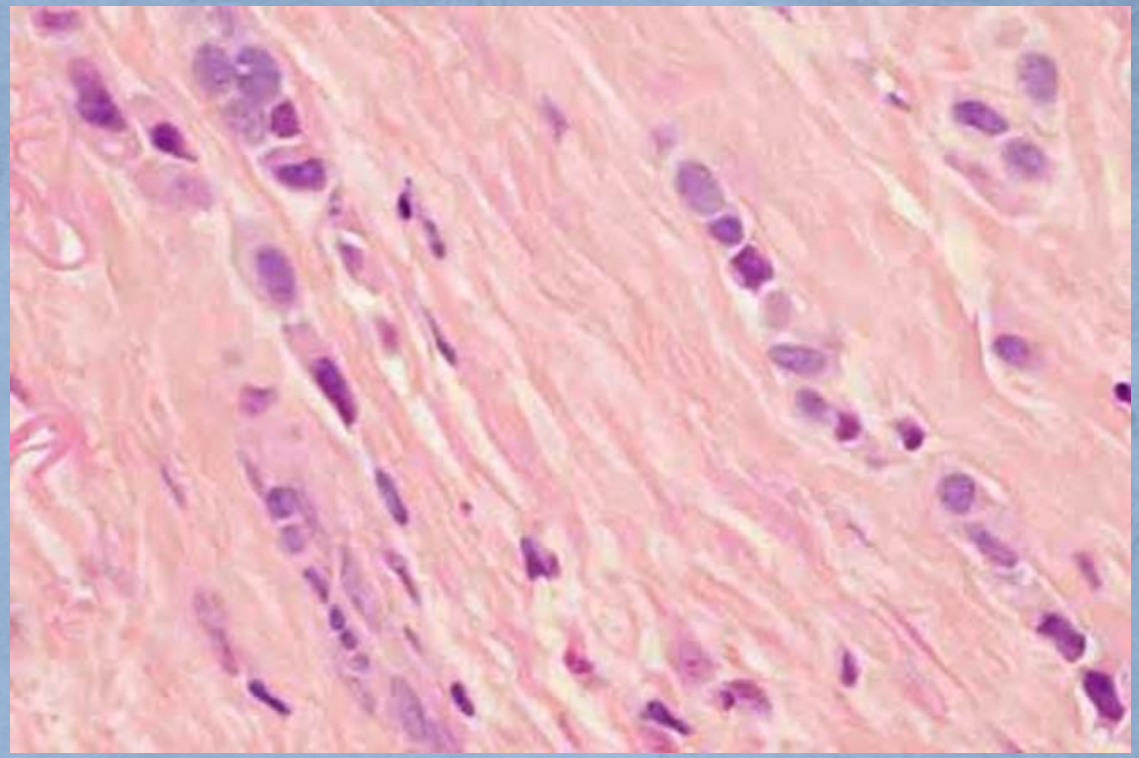
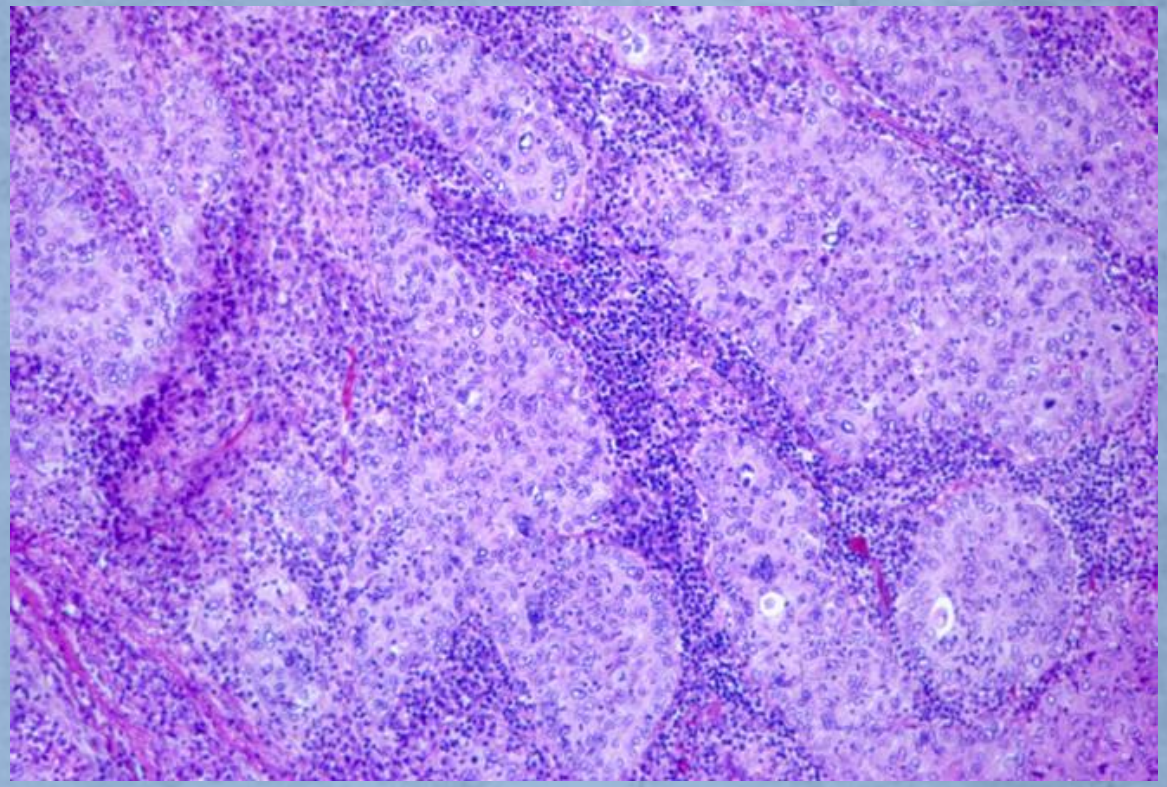


http://www.breastpathology.info/Special%20Types.html

Medullary Carcinoma

- This subtype of breast cancer presents as a well circumscribed mass.
- May be mistaken clinically and radiologically for fibroadenoma
- It does not produce any fibroblastic (desmoplastic) reaction and therefore is soft and fleshy.
- Histology: the tumor is composed of solid sheets of malignant cells surrounded by many lymphocytes and plasma cells. There is scant fibrous stroma.



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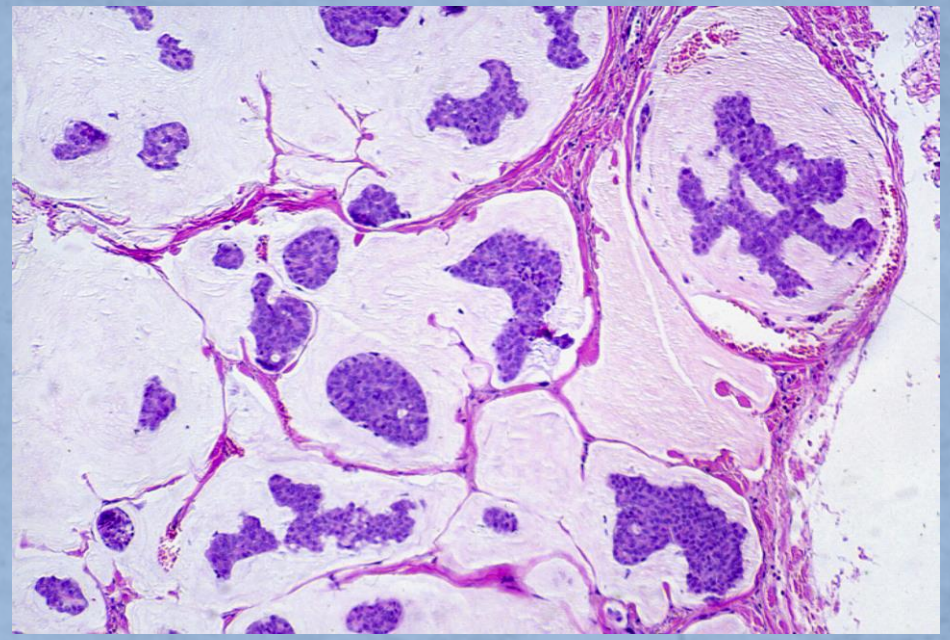
Colloid Carcinoma/ Mucinous carcinoma

- Tends to occur in older women.
- It is sharply circumscribed, lacks fibrous stroma and is slow growing.
- Is soft and gelatinous and has a glistening cut surface.
- It may be in pure mucinous or mixed with another type of invasive breast carcinoma.
- The tumor is composed of small islands of tumors cells and single tumor cells floating in pools of extracellular mucin



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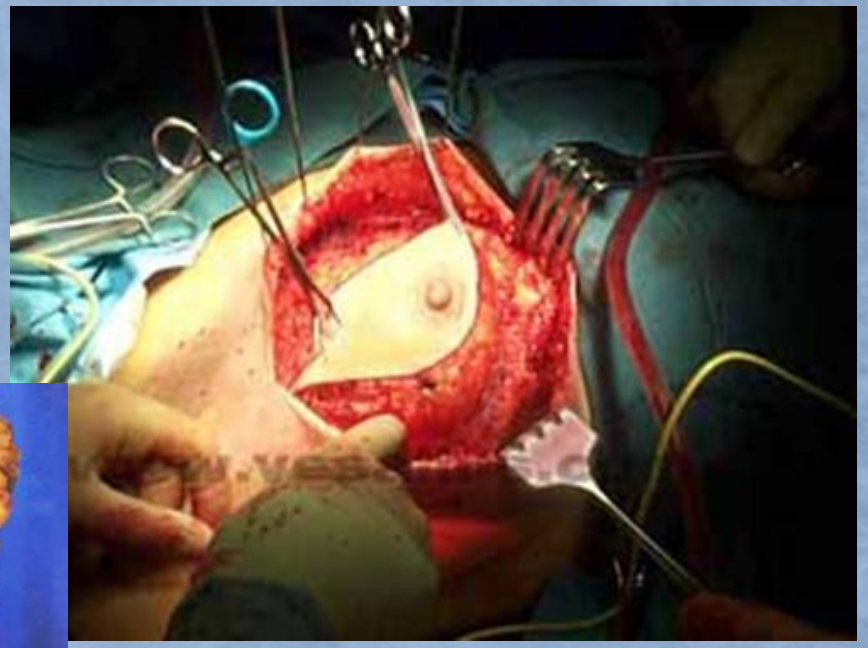
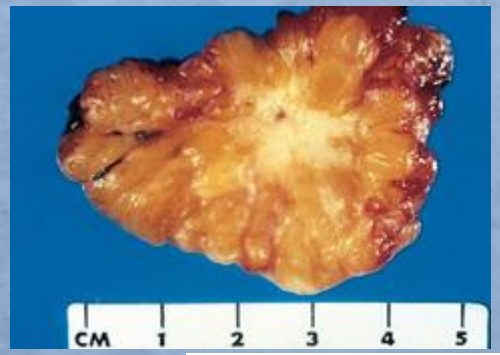
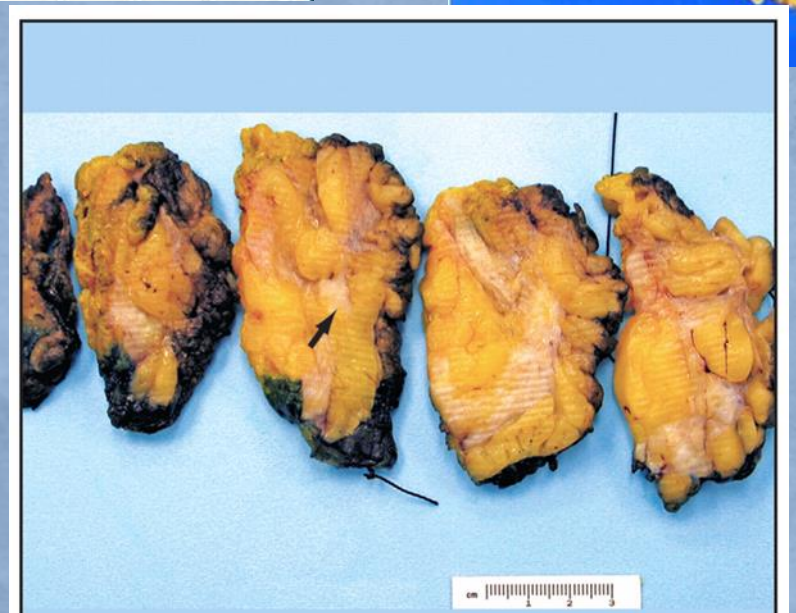
Treatment

- Wide local excision
- Radical mastectomy







Breast Carcinoma, Major Prognostic Factors

1. **Invasive or In situ disease:** Invasive carcinoma has poorer prognosis as it can metastasize. In-situ carcinoma is confined to the ductal/lobular system and cannot metastasize, so it has better prognosis.

2. **Distant metastasis:** Once distant metastases is present, cure is unlikely, although long-term remissions and palliation can be achieved. Favored sites for dissemination are the lungs, bones, liver, adrenals, brain, and meninges.

3. **Lymph node metastasis:** Axillary lymph node status is the most important prognostic factor for invasive carcinoma. The clinical assessment of nodal involvement is very inaccurate, therefore, biopsy is necessary for accurate assessment.

4. **Tumor Size:** The size of the carcinoma is the second most important prognostic factor. The risk of axillary lymph node metastases increases with the size of the carcinoma.

Note: all the above parameters are used to stage the tumor. Stage is a combination of size, lymph node status and distant metastasis. Tumor size less than 2 cm is associated with a favorable prognosis. The single most important prognostic indicator is the lymph node status. Negative lymph nodes have the best prognosis. Involvement of 1 to 3 lymph nodes has an intermediate prognosis and 4 or more positive nodes have the worse prognosis.

Breast Carcinoma, Major Prognostic Factors

5. **Locally advanced disease:** Tumors invading into overlying skin or underlying skeletal muscle are frequently associated with concurrent or subsequent distant disease. With increased awareness of breast cancer detection, such cases have fortunately decreased in frequency and are now rare at initial presentation.

6. **Inflammatory Carcinoma:** Women presenting with the clinical appearance of breast swelling and skin thickening have a poor prognosis.

Breast Carcinoma , Minor Prognostic Factors

1. **Histologic Subtype**: Infiltrating ductal and lobular carcinomas have the worst prognosis. Medullary and mucinous have intermediate prognosis. And tubular and cribriform have the most favorable prognosis

2. **Tumor Grade:** it is calculated using a grading system called *modified Scarff-Bloom-Richardson (SBR)* grading system. There are three grades: 1, 2 and 3. Grade 1 has better prognosis and grade 3 has poorer prognosis. This SBR grading system is based on the estimation of the amount of well formed glands, the degree of nuclear pleomorphism, and the mitotic rate, on microscopic examination. It is calculated by the pathologist.

3. **Tumor cells with estrogen and progesterone positive receptors:** majority of breast carcinoma cells express estrogen and progesterone receptors. Such hormone positive cancers have better prognosis. They respond well to specific chemotherapy drugs e.g. Tamoxifen. Therefore it is mandatory to identify which tumors are ER/PR positive as they respond well to chemotherapy and have better prognosis when compared to ER/PR negative tumors.

4. ***HER2*** (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2): is a glycoprotein overexpressed in about 30% of breast carcinomas. Many studies have shown that overexpression of *HER2* is associated with a poor prognosis. In addition, ongoing studies have shown that *HER2*-overexpressing tumors respond very well to a chemotherapy drug named Trastuzumab (Herceptin). Therefore, it is mandatory to determine the HER2 status of the tumor when reporting breast cancer in order to help decide the chemotherapy plan.

5. **Lymphovascular invasion:** is strongly associated with the presence of lymph node metastases and is a poor prognostic factor.

6. **Proliferative rates:** ki67 index (the higher the ki67 proliferative index, the more aggressive the tumor is)

Metastasis to vertebra

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STROMAL TUMORS

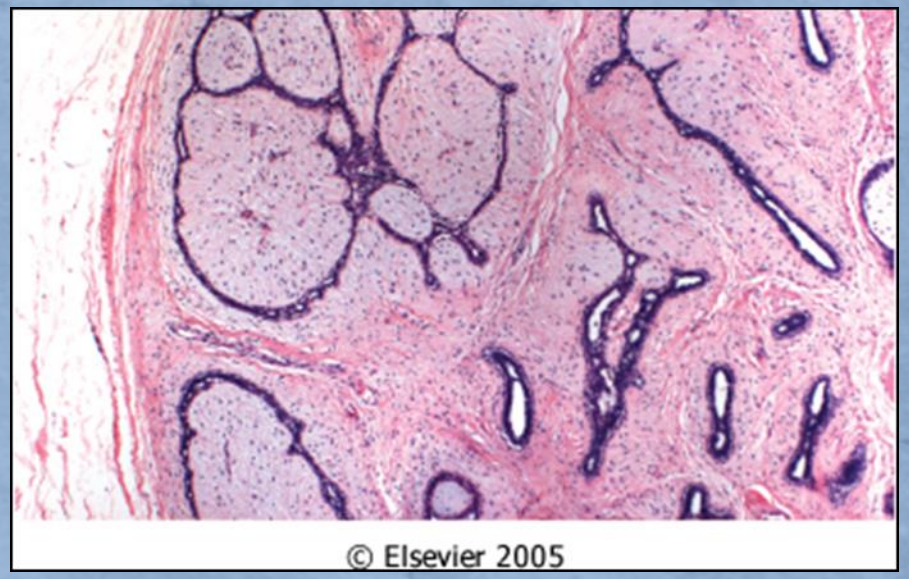
- 2 basic stromal tumors are

  - fibroadenoma

  - Phylloids tumor

Fibroadenoma (FA)

- The most common benign tumor of the female breast.
- It is composed of benign proliferation of both epithelial and stromal elements.
- Any age, most common before age 30
- Classic presentation: firm, mobile lump (“breast mouse”).
- It may increase in size during pregnancy. It may stop growing and regress after menopause.
- The tumor is usually solitary but may be multiple and involve both breasts.
- The tumor is completely benign. FA are almost never malignant.
- Grossly: spherical nodules, sharply demarcated and circumscribed from the surrounding breast tissue and so is freely movable and can be shelled out. Size vary (1cm to 10 cm in diameter). Cut surface: pearl-white and whorled.
- Histology: tumor is composed of a mixture of ducts and fibrous connective tissue
- Treatment: lumpectomy (only the lump is removed)



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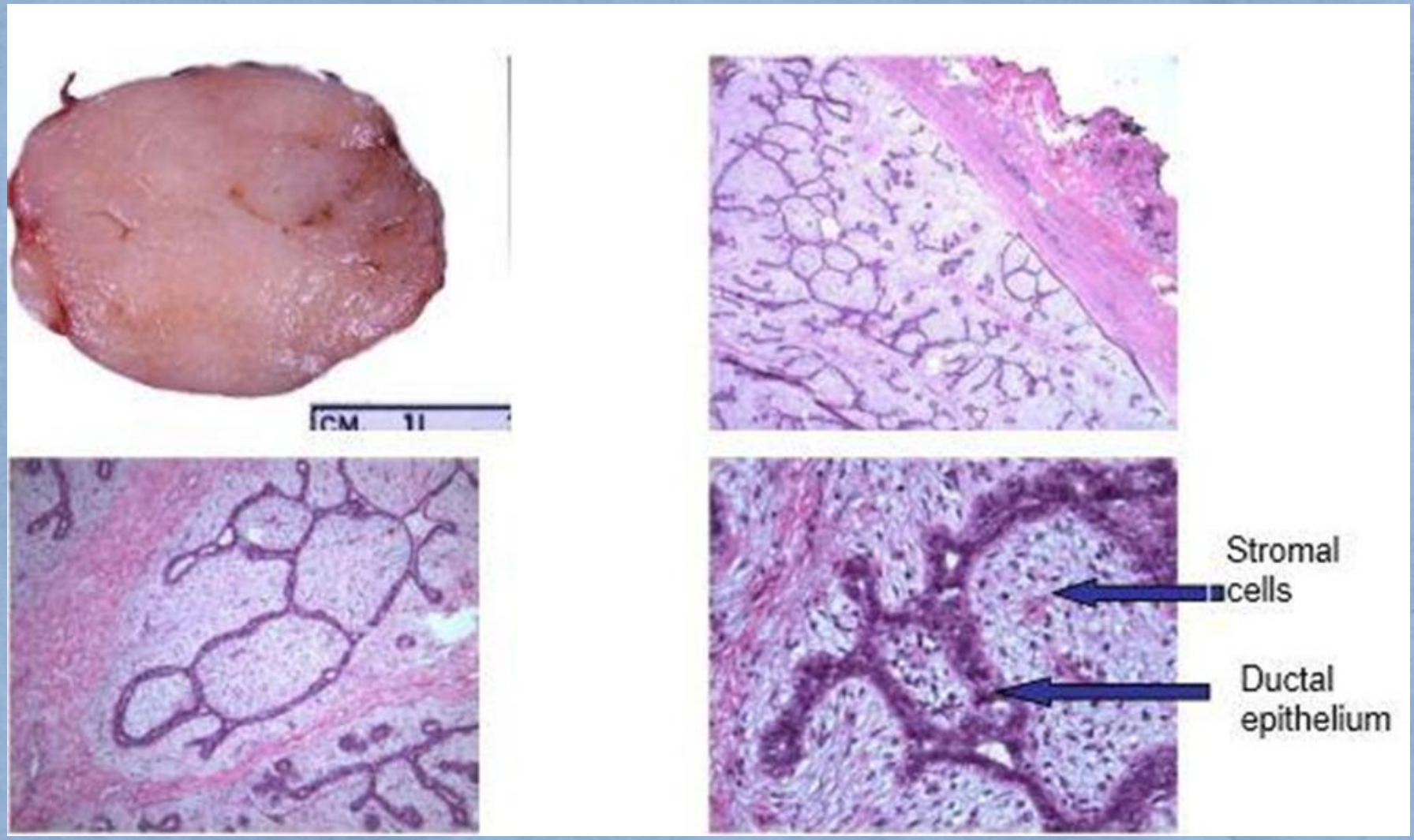
The lesion consists of a proliferation of intralobular stroma surrounding and often pushing and distorting the associated epithelium. The border is sharply delimited.



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Phylloides tumor

- Phyllodes tumors can occur at any age, but most present in the 40s and 50s, that is 10 to 20 years later than the average presentation of a fibroadenoma
- These tumors are much less common than fibroadenomas
- Most present as large palpable masses (usually 3 to 4 cm in diameter)
- They are fibro-epthelial tumors, have a leaf like pattern and a cellular stroma.
- Phyllodes tumors are classified as:
  - Benign phyllodes tumors: most (75%) phyllodes tumors are benign.
  - Low-grade phyllodes tumors: they tend to recur locally and a rarely metastasize.
  - High-grade phyllodes tumors: are uncommon and they behave aggressively with frequent local recurrences and can have distant metastases to lung, bone, CNS. They have better prognosis than invasive ductal carcinoma.