

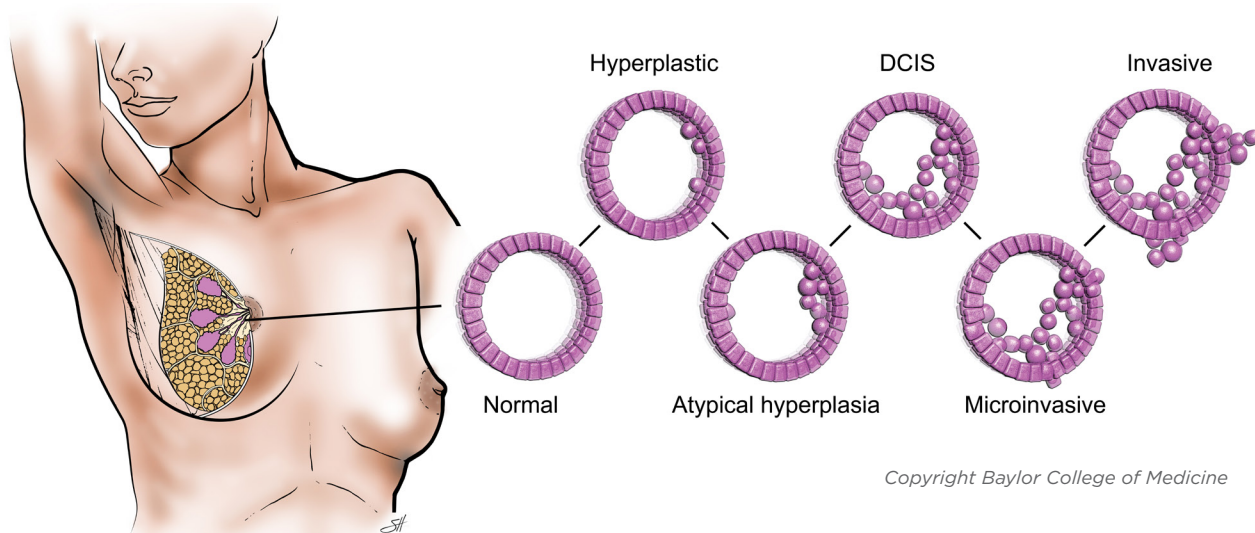
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Breast Cancer and Genetic Mutations

Breast cancer is a disease in which normal breast cells are replaced by abnormal ones. Lobules, ducts and connective tissue make up the breast. The lobules make the milk, the ducts carry the milk to the nipple and the connective tissue keeps everything in place. Most types of breast cancer happen in the ducts or the lobules.

Invasive Ductal Carcinoma (IDC)

Invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC) is what happens when cancer cells that line the ducts spread into the breast tissue around them.



Invasive Lobular Carcinoma (ILC)

Invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) happens when the cancer cells that line the lobules spread into the breast tissue around them. Treatment for invasive carcinoma is customized for each patient.

Breast cancer can spread to the lymph nodes (lumps of tissue that hold white blood cells that are responsible for fighting infection) and other parts of the body through the blood or lymph system. If this happens, the cancer has spread to other parts of the body. Surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and endocrine therapy are all possible ways to treat cancer. Each person may receive different treatments in a different order.

BRCA Genetic Mutation

Some individuals have a genetic mutation, particularly in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes, that increases their lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. In cases where the risk is significantly elevated, a prophylactic mastectomy (preventive removal of the breasts) may be recommended as a preventive measure to reduce the risk of developing breast cancer.

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