

COMMON TYPES OF BREAST CANCER

DUCTAL CARCINOMA IN SITU (DCIS): This is the earliest type of breast cancer, when the cells lining the milk duct have become malignant, but have not had a chance to spread through the walls of the milk ducts into the surrounding tissue. DCIS has no ability to spread, and is associated with a 99% cure rate. This is part of the spectrum referred to as ductal intraepithelial neoplasia (DIN).

INVASIVE (OR INFILTRATING) DUCTAL CARCINOMA: This occurs when the malignant cells in the milk duct have had the opportunity to break through the wall of the duct into the surrounding breast tissue. This is the most common type of breast cancer, accounting for 80% of invasive cancers. The term invasive does **not** mean that cancer has spread, but all of these cancers have the ability to metastasize.

INVASIVE (OR INFILTRATING) LOBULAR CANCER: These cancers begin in the sacs of the breast which produce the milk. Only 20% of all breast cancers are lobular. They have the same prognosis as ductal cancers, but can be much harder to detect, and are more often missed by breast imaging.

INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER: This uncommon type of breast cancer presents with visible breast skin changes which look like an infection. This is a more aggressive form of breast cancer and is more likely to metastasize. This type of breast cancer is often treated with chemotherapy prior to surgery.

PAGET'S DISEASE: This type of ductal breast cancer presents with a visible rash or scaly change in the skin of the nipple. It can be either localized or invasive, but the nipple will need to be removed.