

adipose tissue	Subcutaneous fat tissue
adjuvant	Administered after another treatment
aesthetically pleasing	Promoting or preserving a normal appearance
alveoli	Tiny cavities or bulbs that transform water and nutrients from the blood into milk
anterior	Closest to the front of the body
anterior axillary line	An imaginary line that runs from the middle of the underarm and down the side of the body
areola	The pink to dark brown circular area around the nipple
arteries	Vessels that deliver blood away from the heart
aspirate	To remove or withdraw
autologous	Patient's own tissue
autologous tissue transfer reconstruction	Reconstruction using the patient's own tissue, usually in the form of a flap
axilla	Armpit
axillary	Underarm
benign	Not malignant
biofilm	Thin coating of bacteria imbedded in an adhesive matrix
biologic therapy	Treatment using a therapeutic drug tailored to specifically target an agent that contributes to the disease
biological	Derived from or related to a living source
biopsy	Removal of tissue for histological examination by a pathologist
bipedicle flap	A graft in which muscles and vascular connections on either side of the abdominal midline are used to support a central muscle graft
blunt dissection	Separation of tissues without cutting

bottoming out	Condition in which the nipple areolar complex and the inframmary fold have elongated due to skin stretching
brachytherapy (internal radiation)	Type of radiation that uses radioactive materials that are placed into the body in or near a cancer
breast conservation procedure	Surgery that removes a breast tumor and a margin of surrounding tissue while leaving the majority of the breast intact
breast implants	Prostheses inserted into the breast to replace missing tissue or change size, structure, and/or contour
breast landmarks	Recognizable reference points on the breast, chest, and upper arm that describe and measure the relationship of the breast to those points and to other soft or hard tissue structures
breast reconstruction	The process of surgically rebuilding or recreating a new breast after it has been removed as part of disease treatment, usually related to cancer. The new breast is created with saline or silicone-filled implants (breast prostheses) or tissue from other parts of the body.
breast surgeon	A physician trained in general surgery, with additional training and specialization in breast surgery
breast width	The measurement of the breast from the front at the widest portion of the breast from the edge of the sternum to the lateral edge of the latissimus dorsi muscle or the anterior axillary line
cancer	A group of diseases that cause cells in the body to change and grow out of control. Most types of cancer cells eventually form a lump or mass called a tumor and are named after the part of the body where the tumor originates. (Source: American Cancer Society)
cancer committee	A group of individuals who oversee the activities and decisions of a tumor review board
capsular contracture	Scarring and contraction that occurs around a breast implant as a result of foreign body reaction
cartilage tissue	A dense form of connective tissue
chemotherapy	Treatment of disease using toxic chemicals to kill disease producing cells

clavicle	Collar bone
clinical breast examination (CBE)	Digital examination of breast, chest and underarm area performed by qualified medical personnel
collagen	A fibrous protein that is the main constituent of skin and tendons
compromised	Weakened by disease, injury or toxicity
connective tissue	Tissue that surrounds and joins tissues within the body
contralateral	Opposite side
core needle biopsy	A biopsy using a larger needle to remove 3-5 cylindrical samples of tissue under local anesthesia
deep inferior epigastric perforator (DIEP) flap	Flap breast reconstruction procedure that uses fat and skin from the lower abdomen
delayed-immediate reconstruction	Reconstruction with use of an expander first, followed later by using an implant or autologous reconstruction
delayed reconstruction	Reconstruction in which a period of time elapses between initial surgery and breast reconstruction
dissected	Separated or cut apart
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid; cell code controlling cell activity
ductal carcinoma	Cancer that begins in the ducts of the breast
ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)	A non-invasive abnormality of the cells that line the ducts, which is confined to the ducts
elastin	An elastic protein similar to collagen
elevated	Lifted
epithelial basement membrane	A thin layer of cells that lines a cavity, e.g., milk ducts
erythema	Redness
excisional biopsy	A surgical biopsy in which the entire abnormality as well as a margin of healthy tissue surrounding the lump is removed via resection

expander/implant reconstruction	Reconstruction of the breast using a tissue expander followed by a breast implant; also known as two-stage reconstruction
external oblique muscle	The largest and most superficial of the abdominal muscles
external radiation	The most commonly used type of radiation for breast cancer; this treatment is delivered via a machine that resides outside the body
extrusion	Removal by pushing from inside to outside
fascia	Fibrous connective tissue that covers or binds together body structures
fetus	Unborn offspring
fine-needle aspiration biopsy	A biopsy technique in which a thin hollow needle is inserted into a tumor and a syringe is used to aspirate (remove or withdraw) a small amount of tissue for microscopic examination
flap	A unit of tissue, transferred from one site (donor site) to another (recipient site) with its blood supply intact
free flap	Tissue along with its blood supply, detached or freed from one site (donor site) and transferred to a another location (recipient site)
free TRAM flap reconstruction	Surgical procedure in which the graft is completely removed from the body, and is then formed in the shape of the breast at the mastectomy site and sutured to new blood vessels using microvascular technique
full muscle coverage (FMC)	Surgical technique in which the expander or breast implant is placed completely under the muscle layers; also referred to as total muscle coverage
general surgeon	A physician who has completed a surgical residency and performs a variety of surgical procedures, such as appendectomies, hernia corrections, abdominal surgeries, including breast procedures
generative system	The body's reproductive system
genetic disposition	Family history

gluteal flap	A tissue flap from either the inferior or superior buttock that uses skin and fat, leaving the muscle behind and includes the respective inferior gluteal artery perforator (IGAP), or the superior gluteal artery perforator (SGAP)
gluteus maximus	Commonly referred to as the buttocks muscle
hematoma	Collection of blood outside the blood vessels
hernia	A condition where tissue or organs protrude through the muscular wall that normally contains them
histological	Microscopic analysis of cells
hormone therapy	The use of hormones or hormone-blocking drugs in the treatment of disease
hyperpigmentation	Overproduction of melanin, causing darkening of skin
immediate reconstruction	Reconstruction performed at the time of mastectomy
implant reconstruction	Breast reconstruction using a breast implant alone; also known as one-stage or single-stage surgery
in situ	Localized
incisional biopsy	A surgical biopsy in which only a small portion of the suspect tissue is removed
inframammary fold (IMF)	The natural fold of the breast that begins near the sternum and curves down and around to the anterior axillary line
innervated	Supplied with nerves
intercostal	Between the ribs
internal mammary	Within the breast
interlobular	Between the lobes
invasive cancers	Cancers that have spread from the tissue in which they originated into healthy tissue surrounding the area
ischemia	Lack of adequate blood flow

lactiferous ducts	Small thin tubes, leading from the lobules of the mammary gland to the tip of the nipple; also referred to as <i>galactophores</i> , <i>galactophorous ducts</i> , <i>mammary ducts</i> , <i>mamillary duct</i> , and <i>milk ducts</i> .
large core biopsy	A biopsy removing more tissue than regular core needle biopsy via stereotactic biopsy method to target a lesion
lateral	Positioned on the side or away from the center of the body
lateral malposition	Implant displaces toward the armpits
lateral mammary fold (LMF)	The lateral mammary fold is a breast landmark located where the skin folds and attaches to the breast at the side
latissimus dorsi muscle	Large broad back muscle that extends and rotates the arm
latissimus dorsi musculocutaneous flap (LDMF)	Breast reconstruction procedure that uses the latissimus dorsi muscle to reconstruct the breast using the muscle in a similar fashion as that of the TRAM procedure
lobes	Sections of the breast, made up of milk producing structures
lobular carcinoma	Cancer that begins in the lobules of the breast
lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS)	A non-invasive precancerous abnormality of the cells within the lobules, which is confined to the lobules
lobules	Smaller milk producing glands arranged in an uneven wheel spoke pattern
lower pole	The space at the area of the greatest projection of the nipple to the bottom attachment of the breast measured at the chest wall
lymph	Watery tissue fluid
lymph nodes	Tiny organs that filter lymph and function as part of the immune system
lymph vessels	Thin walled vessels that carry lymph
magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	Magnetic cross sectional images of the body used for diagnostic purposes
malignant	Becoming progressively worse

mammography (screening)	Low-dose breast x-ray used for the detection of breast diseases
mastectomy	Surgical removal of the breast
medical oncologist	A physician who specializes in biologic (targeted), chemotherapy, and/or hormonal therapy.
metastasize	Migrate or wander
metastatic cancers	Cancers that spread from the tissue in which they originated to other areas of the body
mid-clavicle position (MCP)	A fixed reference point or landmark for breast measurements located in the middle of the collar bone between the sternum and where the collar bone enters the shoulder
necrosis	Tissue death
neoadjuvant	Administered before another treatment
nipple	Area of the breast that contains the ducts that deliver milk
nipple-areolar complex (NAC)	The focal point of the breast, consisting of the nipple and the areola
nipple sparing mastectomy	Mastectomy procedure in which both the nipple and areola are preserved; cancerous tissue is removed through an incision made around the areola
one-stage reconstruction	Breast reconstruction using a breast implant alone; also known as implant or single-stage reconstruction
palpate	Feel
parenchyma	Functional tissues of an organ
partial muscle coverage (PMC)	Surgical technique in which only the upper $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the expander or breast implant is placed under the pectoralis major muscle, and the bottom $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ is up against the skin flap; also known as sub-muscular sub-skin flap coverage
pathophysiology	The alteration of normal state by disease
pectoral	Positioned in or related to the chest
pectoralis major muscle (PMM)	A large triangular muscle that is responsible for the major movements of the arm

pedicled flap	A flap left attached to the donor site via a vascular stalk or pedicle. The flap is moved to the recipient location keeping the pedicle conduit intact to supply the tissue with blood.
pedicle TRAM flap reconstruction	A procedure that frees a graft from the abdomen, but retains the connection with blood vessels in the area of the removal. The graft is rotated and tunneled under the skin and then sutured to the mastectomy site.
plastic surgeon	A surgeon who specializes in reconstructive procedures, but may have certification in both breast and plastic surgery
premalignant	Tissue that will become malignant if not treated
primary closure	Wound edges brought together with suture, staples, etc. immediately following completion of a surgical procedure
prognosis	Outlook for survival
prosthesis	A device that replaces a part of the human body, e.g., an implant
ptotic	Hanging normally
ptosis	Normal sag or hanging of breast
quadrantectomy	Removal of approximately one quarter of the breast along with the cancer
radiation oncologist	A specialist in radiation treatment for cancer
radiation oncology	The use of high energy radioactive materials or particles to control, damage or destroy cells by causing structural damage to cell DNA; also known as radiation therapy or XRT
radiation therapy	The use of high energy radioactive materials or particles to control, damage or destroy cells by causing structural damage to cell DNA; also known as radiation oncology or XRT
rectus abdominus muscle	The abdominal muscle that begins over the lower sternum where cartilage tissue attaches it to the 5th, 6th, and 7th ribs. It extends over the abdomen where it is attached to the pubic bone.
resection	To cut out or remove a section or portion of tissue, structure or organ

serratus magnus	A large muscle that runs from the upper portions of the ribs to the shoulder blades
sentinel lymph node (SN)	The first node in the draining lymphatic pathway away from the breast, along which cancer cells may move after they leave the original cancer site and begin to spread
seroma	Mass formed in tissue from concentration of serous fluid
serous fluid	Liquid portion of blood and fluid that moistens surfaces of membranes
single pedicle flap	A graft with a single muscle and vascular connection taken from one side of the abdomen
single-stage reconstruction	Breast reconstruction using a breast implant alone; also known as one-stage or implant reconstruction
skin sparing mastectomy	A mastectomy procedure in which tissue is removed through an incision which removes the nipple and areola
stereotactic biopsy	Biopsy method that uses a computer and two-plane imaging to target a lesion
sternal notch(SN) or suprasternal notch (SSN)	A notch located at the top of the sternum
sternum	Breastbone
sub-muscular sub-skin flap coverage	Surgical technique in which only the upper ½ to ⅔ of the expander or breast implant is placed under the pectoralis major muscle, and the bottom ½ to ⅓ is up against the skin flap; also known as partial muscle coverage
surgical oncologist	Cancer surgery specialist
suprasternal notch (SSN) or sternal notch(SN)	A notch located at the top of the sternum
surgical (open) biopsy	Biopsy in which tissue is removed surgically. It is normally performed in a hospital or outpatient setting.
surgical oncologist	A physician who specializes in surgical treatment of cancer; both biopsy procedures and tumor removal. Some surgical oncologists may specialize in breast cancer
synmastia	Implants displace and meet in the middle

systemic	Throughout the body; not localized
targeted therapy	A type of treatment that uses drugs or other substances, targeted to individual cells
thoracic nerve	A nerve located mid-chest; around the lungs
tissue expander	A type of implant that stretches available tissue
tissue expander/ implant reconstruction	Reconstruction using a tissue expander (a type of implant that stretches available tissue) followed by a breast implant, also known as two-stage reconstruction
total muscle coverage (TMC)	Surgical technique in which the expander or breast implant is placed completely under the muscle layers; also referred to as full muscle coverage
total skin sparing mastectomy	Also called a subcutaneous (beneath the skin) mastectomy; the incision is made in the fold under the breast or around the areola
transverse rectus abdominus myocutaneous (TRAM) flap reconstruction surgery	Surgery that uses a flap consisting of the patient's abdominal tissue for the breast reconstruction and leaves the patient with a more natural feeling breast.
tumor review board	A hospital board of multi-discipline specialists who are experts in their field. In most hospitals or cancer treatment centers, a cancer committee and a tumor review board have a prominent role in cancer treatment decisions.
two-stage reconstruction	Reconstruction of the breast using a tissue expander followed by a breast implant; also known as expander/implant reconstruction
upper pole	The space above the center of the nipple measured at the chest wall
veins	Vessels that deliver blood to the heart
wound dehiscence	Separation of the sutured edges of a surgical wound
XRT	Abbreviation for radiation therapy or radiation oncology, the use of high energy radioactive materials or particles to control, damage or destroy cells by causing structural damage to cell DNA