

DOCUMENT TITLE: Types and Molecular Subtypes of Breast Cancer
SOURCE: Oncology reference
DOMAIN: Oncology - Breast Cancer
LANGUAGE: English
DOCUMENT TYPE: Disease Classification Overview
CLINICAL CONTEXT: Educational (non-prescriptive)
LAST UPDATED: 2025

OVERVIEW OF BREAST CANCER TYPES

Breast cancer includes multiple disease types that differ based on:

- Cell of origin
- Invasiveness
- Molecular and biomarker characteristics
- Pattern of spread

INVASIVE BREAST CANCERS

Invasive Ductal Carcinoma (IDC)

Invasive ductal carcinoma begins in the milk ducts and spreads into surrounding breast tissue.

It is the most common type of breast cancer.

Invasive Lobular Carcinoma (ILC)

Invasive lobular carcinoma begins in the milk-producing lobules.

It tends to grow more slowly and is more often bilateral than other types.

NON-INVASIVE AND PRECURSOR CONDITIONS

Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS)

DCIS is a non-invasive breast cancer confined to the milk ducts.

It is also referred to as stage 0 breast cancer.

Lobular Carcinoma In Situ (LCIS)

LCIS is not considered breast cancer but is associated with increased future risk.

SPECIAL AND RARE TYPES OF BREAST CANCER

Inflammatory Breast Cancer

A rare and aggressive form characterized by lymphatic blockage in the skin.

Paget Disease of the Breast

A rare cancer involving the nipple and areola.

Phyllodes Tumor

A rare tumor originating from connective tissue.

Most phyllodes tumors are benign.

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER

Metastatic breast cancer (stage IV) occurs when cancer spreads to distant organs

such as bone, liver, or lungs.

MOLECULAR SUBTYPES OF BREAST CANCER

Molecular subtypes are defined by biomarker expression.

Common subtypes include:

- Luminal A
- Luminal B
- HER2-positive
- Triple-negative breast cancer

These subtypes influence prognosis and treatment strategies.
CLINICAL RELEVANCE

Breast cancer classification is essential for:

- Prognosis estimation
- Treatment planning
- Risk assessment