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## OVERVIEW OF BREAST CANCER SYMPTOMS

Breast cancer symptoms vary widely.  
Many breast cancers cause no noticeable symptoms, especially in early stages.

#### ## COMMON BREAST CHANGES ASSOCIATED WITH BREAST CANCER

Possible symptoms include:

- Swelling of all or part of the breast
- Skin irritation or dimpling
- Breast pain or tenderness
- Nipple pain or inversion
- Redness, scaliness, or thickening of breast or nipple skin
- Nipple discharge not related to breast milk
- Lump or swelling in the underarm area

#### ## BREAST PAIN AND ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS

Breast pain is not a common symptom of early breast cancer.  
Pain may occur when a tumor presses on surrounding tissue.

Pain and tenderness may be early symptoms of inflammatory breast cancer.  
Paget disease of the nipple may cause pain, burning, and irritation.

#### ## BREAST LUMPS OR MASSES

A new lump or mass may be the first noticeable sign of breast cancer.

Cancerous lumps are more likely to be:

- Painless
- Hard
- Irregular in shape

However, some breast cancers may feel soft, tender, or rounded.

#### ## ASYMPTOMATIC BREAST CANCER

Some breast cancers do not cause symptoms.

They may be detected only through imaging studies such as mammography.

#### ## CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SYMPTOMS

Breast symptoms may also be caused by benign conditions such as infections or cysts.

Clinical evaluation is required to determine the cause of breast changes.