

# **The application of fibrin glue after axillary lymphadenectomy in the surgical treatment of human breast cancer.**

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Publication Date: 1995

## **Abstract:**

Experimental studies point out that a reduction of lymph flow can be obtained by the local application of fibrin glue following axillary lymphadenectomy in the surgical treatment of breast cancer. In a prospective study the influence of human fibrin glue on postoperative axillary lymph secretion and the period of drainage of the wound cavity were evaluated. In 40 patients, 5 ml of fibrin glue (Tissucol) was applied to the wound cavity by the use of a spray applicator (Tissumat) immediately after axillary dissection of the lymph nodes. For drainage of the wound area Redon suction-drains were used. The daily amount of postoperative lymph secretion was measured and drains were removed at a lymph secretion of less than 20 ml. 40 patients who underwent surgery and axillary lymphadenectomy without subsequent application of fibrin glue sourced as control group. No significant difference concerning the total amount of lymph secretion, the mean period of drainage or the incidence of lymphatic cysts was observed. In our study, the expected occlusion of the wound cavity by the application of fibrin glue after axillary lymphadenectomy did not lead to any advantage when compared with the control group.