

Congenital Breast Abnormalities



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Amazia

- Congenital absence of the breast may occur on one or both sides. It is sometimes associated with absence of the sternal portion of the pectoralis major (Poland's syndrome).
- It is more common in males.



Polymazia

- Accessory breasts have been recorded in the axilla (the most frequent site), groin, buttock and thigh.
- They have been known to function during lactation.



Mastitis of infants

- Mastitis of infants is at least as common in boys as in girls. On the third or fourth day of life, if the breast of an infant is pressed lightly, a drop of colourless fluid can be expressed; a few days later, there is often a slight milky secretion, which disappears during the third week. This is popularly known as 'witch's milk' and is seen only in full-term infants. It is caused by stimulation of the fetal breast by prolactin in response to the drop in maternal oestrogens and is essentially physiological.
- True mastitis is uncommon and is predominately caused by *Staphylococcus aureus*.



Diffuse hypertrophy

Diffuse hypertrophy of the breasts occurs sporadically in otherwise

healthy girls at puberty (benign virginal hypertrophy) and, much less often, during the first pregnancy. The breasts attain enormous dimensions and may reach the knees when the patient

is sitting. The condition is rarely unilateral. This tremendous overgrowth is apparently caused by an alteration in the normal sensitivity of the breast to oestrogenic hormones and some success in treating it with anti-oestrogens has been reported. Treatment is otherwise by reduction mammoplasty.

