

Lumpectomy and Mastectomy Surgery Comparison

Surgery to remove cancer from the breast can be done with either lumpectomy or mastectomy. Your surgeon will tell you if one option is better for you than the other. Or, you may be eligible for both and must decide which procedure to have.

Survival rate (chance of being alive at a certain time point) is the same with both surgeries. For this reason, both surgical options are considered equal in the treatment of breast cancer.

Lumpectomy

Lumpectomy is the removal of the part of the breast that has cancer. Other names for this surgery are segmental and partial mastectomy.

This surgery is for patients who have a small area of disease in relation to breast size.

Lumpectomy must be followed by radiation to be considered appropriate treatment. Radiation usually begins four to six weeks after surgery. For patients receiving partial breast radiation, treatment will begin about one week after surgery. There are several possible courses of radiation. Your radiation doctor will discuss the best course for you.

Sometimes the cancer cannot be felt during a physical exam. When this happens, a wire or locator device will be placed in your breast the morning of surgery. Medicine to numb the involved area of the breast is given before this device is inserted. This wire or locator device will guide your surgeon to the area of the breast to be removed.



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Lumpectomy Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons
Outpatient surgery.	Greater possibility of re-excision (additional surgery).
Shorter recovery.	Usually requires radiation.
No drain.	Possible cosmetic change.
Keep the breast.	Slightly higher chance of local recurrence (with no difference in systemic recurrence or survival).

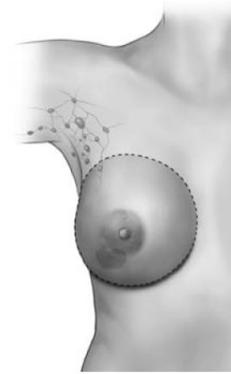
Mastectomy

Mastectomy is removal of the whole breast. Reconstruction of the breast may be offered at the time of the mastectomy or as a separate surgery at a later date.

This surgery is for patients who have a larger area of disease in relation to breast size or if it is their treatment of choice.

Radiation is not usually needed after mastectomy. You may need radiation if the cancer is larger than five centimeters and/or in the lymph nodes.

Radiation after mastectomy may affect your options for reconstruction.



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Mastectomy Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons
Re-excision less likely.	Overnight hospital stay.
Usually does not require radiation.	Longer recovery.
Slightly decreased chance of local recurrence.	Loss of breast.

Lumpectomy and Mastectomy Brief comparison

	Lumpectomy	Mastectomy
Hospital Stay	Outpatient.	Overnight.**
Recovery Time	Three to seven days.	Four to six weeks.**
Drains	No.	Yes.
Radiation	Yes.	Possibly.
Reconstruction	Usually not needed but optional.	Optional, dependent upon radiation.

**Time may be longer with reconstruction. Your doctor will provide this information.