

Unit IV – Problem 11 – Pathology: Breast Cancer



- Acute mastitis:

- ↳ breast feeding leads to stress on the skin resulting in fissures & entry of *S. aureus*
- ↳ Presentation: warm breast, nipple discharge (pus)
- ↳ Treatment:
 - ↳ Continue breast feeding
 - ↳ Antibiotics (dicloxacillin).

* Subareolar ducts:

- ↳ lined by columnar epithelial cells and myoepithelial cells



- Periductal mastitis:

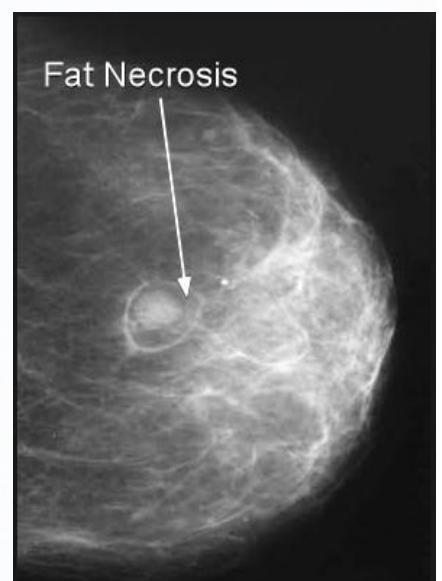
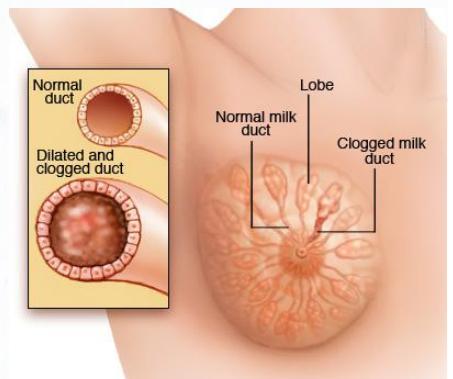
- ↳ smoking → vitamin-A deficiency → squamous metaplasia of subareolar / lactiferous duct → keratin blocking the duct → inflammation.
- ↳ Presentation:
 - ↳ Subareolar mass
 - ↳ Nipple retraction

- Mammary duct ectasia (أذى الأقنية) (توسيع الأقنية)

- ↳ Inflammatory of duct results in its dilation and green-brown nipple discharge.
- ↳ Common in multi-parous postmenopausal women.

- Fat necrosis:

- ↳ necrosis of breast fat usually related to trauma.
- ↳ Presentation:
 - ↳ mass on examination
 - ↳ Calcification on mammography





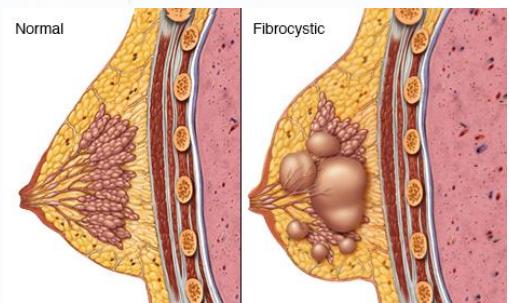
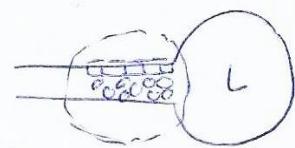
- Fibrocystic changes (benign):

- ↳ There is development of fibrosis & cysts
- In premenopausal females (due to ↑ estrogen).
- On examination, there will be a lumpy breast in upper outer quadrant (لumpy)
- Cysts have blue-domed appearance on gross exam.
- ↑ risk of invasive carcinoma:
 - ↳ Ductal hyperplasia → X2
 - ↳ Sclerosing adenosis (increased number of glands in the lobule) → X2
 - ↳ Atypical hyperplasia → X5

- Intraductal papilloma (benign):

- ↳ in a large duct → there will be papillary growth (finger-like projection with fibrovascular stroma and lined with columnar epithelium & myoepithelial cells)
- In premenopausal women with bloody nipple discharge

* Ductal hyperplasi..

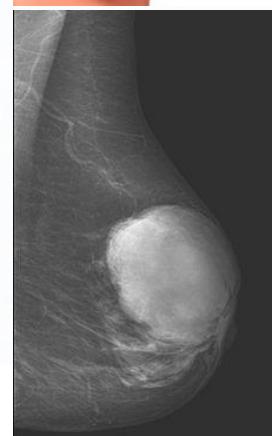
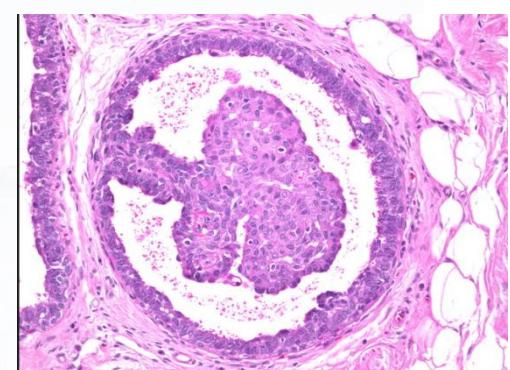


- Fibroadenoma (most common benign tumor):

- ↳ This is a tumor of fibrous tissue & glands
- Seen in premenopausal females with sensitivity to estrogen
- Lesions: well-circumscribed, mobile, marble-like mass

- Phyllodes tumor (Can be malignant):

- ↳ Fibroadenoma-like tumor with overgrowth of fibrous component forming leaf-like projections.
- Seen in postmenopausal females





- Breast cancer:

↳ Risk factors:

- ↳ Female gender (99%): due to estrogen
- ↳ Age: post-menopausal women
- ↳ Early menarche & late menopause
- ↳ Obesity: adipose tissue converting androgen to estrone.
- ↳ Atypical hyperplasia: X 5
- ↳ + family history of 1st degree relative.

① Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS):

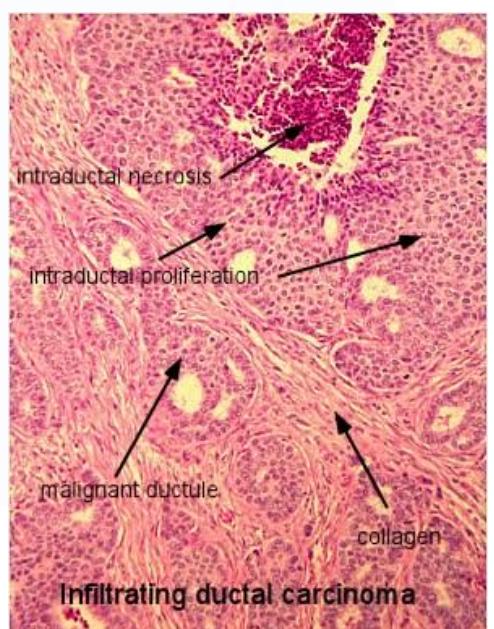
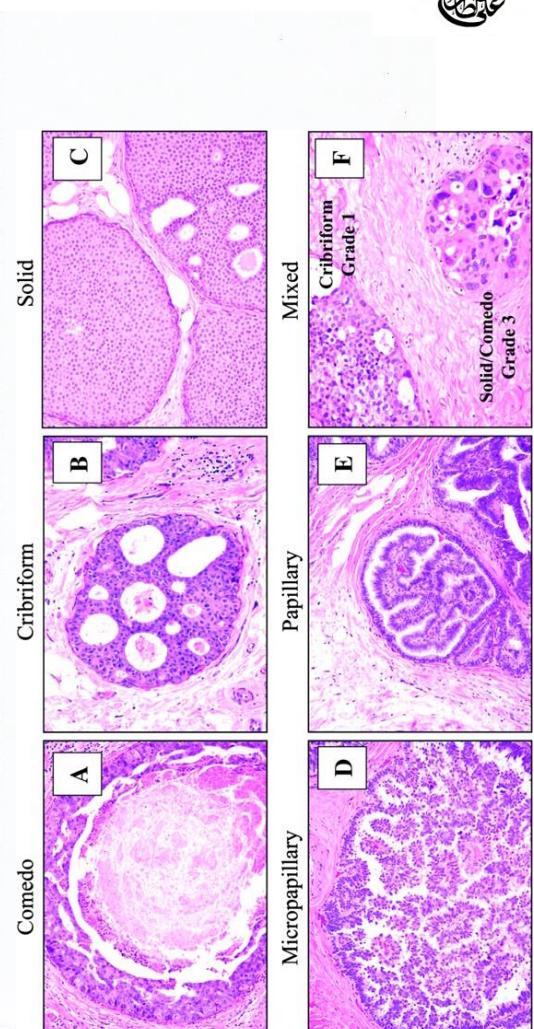
- ↳ Malignant proliferation of epithelial cells in ducts with no invasion to basement membrane.
- ↳ Because growing in ducts → there is no mass detection is by calcification on mammography
- ↳ Comedo type: many malignant cells in the duct with necrosis & calcification

② Paget disease:

- ↳ DCIS extending up to skin of nipple.
- ↳ Presentation: nipple ulceration & erythema

③ Invasive ductal Carcinoma (most common type of invasive carcinoma):

- ↳ Malignant cells are invading basement membrane of ducts
- ↳ Presenting as a mass on physical examination or mammography
- ↳ There will be dimpling of skin or retraction of nipple.
- ↳ Biopsy: duct-like structures in desmoplastic stroma.





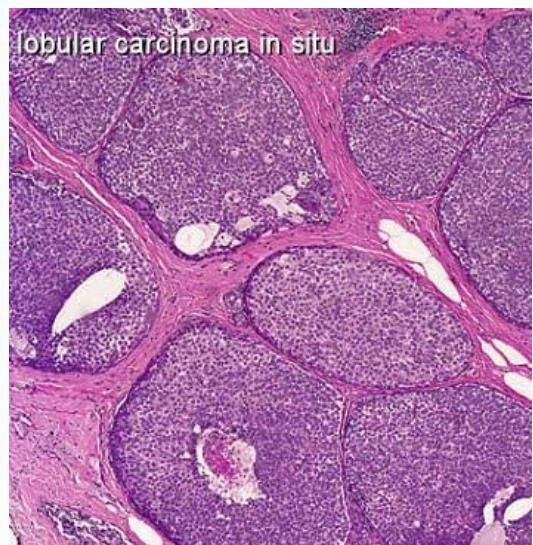
3] Invasive ductal carcinoma (continued):

↳ Subtypes:

- ✖ Tubular carcinoma:
 - Cancer will produce tubules in desmoplastic stroma with 1 cell type.
 - Very good prognosis ☺☺
- ✖ Mucinous carcinoma:
 - Malignant cells present in pools of mucus
 - Very good prognosis ☺☺
 - Seen in old women
- ✖ Inflammatory carcinoma:
 - Breast is swollen & erythematous (resembling acute mastitis).
 - Malignant tumors in dermal lymphatics
 - Very poor prognosis
- ✖ Medullary carcinoma:
 - High-grade malignant cells in an inflammatory background
 - BRCA-1 mutations

4] Lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS):

- ↳ Malignant proliferation of cells in lobules with no invasion of basement membrane.
- No mags or calcification
- Dyscohesive cells lacking E-cadherin (malignant cells are not stuck to each other)
- multifocal (in different places within same breast) and bilateral (in both breasts).





④ Lobular carcinoma in situ (continued):

↳ Treatment: low-risk of developing into invasive carcinoma; Therefore, managed with Tamoxifen with close follow-up

⑤ Invasive lobular carcinoma:

- ↳ Malignant proliferation of cells in lobules with invasion of basement membrane.
- ↳ No duct-like structures (in contrast to invasive ductal carcinoma) due to lack of E-cadherin.

- TNM - staging:

- ↳ T: size of tumor
- ↳ N: spread to lymph nodes (especially axillary)
- ↳ M: metastasis (important prognostic factor)

- Predictive factors (response to tamoxifen):

- ↳ ER & PR → responding to (tamoxifen)
- ↳ HER₂/neu → responding to (trastuzumab)

- Triple-negative carcinoma:

- ↳ no ER, PR or HER₂/neu

↳ Poor prognosis.

- Hereditary breast cancer:

- ↳ BRCA-1: breast & ovarian carcinoma
- ↳ BRCA-2: breast carcinoma in males

* Tamoxifen: antiestrogenic agent.

* ER: nucleus of cell staining brown with immunohistochemistry

* HER₂/neu: cytoplasm of cells staining brown with immunohistochemistry