



NCCN QUICK GUIDE™

# Breast Cancer Invasive



This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete [NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Breast Cancer – Invasive](#). These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit [NCCN.org/patients](http://NCCN.org/patients) or, to order printed copies, visit [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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for Patients®  
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## What is invasive breast cancer?



■ It is breast cancer that has grown into the breast’s fatty tissue, skin, or both but has not spread far in the body	<a href="#">13</a>
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## What health care is needed before treatment?

■ A report of your health history and an exam of your body	<a href="#">15</a>
■ Pictures of the insides of your breasts by mammogram and maybe ultrasound, MRI	<a href="#">16</a>
■ Pictures of your bones and organs if there may be cancer	<a href="#">17</a>
■ Removal of tissue samples to test for cancer	<a href="#">19</a>
■ Tests for two markers—hormone and HER2 receptors—within breast cancer cells	<a href="#">20</a>
■ Blood tests to check for health problems if needed	<a href="#">22</a>
■ Advice on genetic tests if there’s a risk of breast cancer within your family	<a href="#">22</a>
■ Advice on fertility methods if you may want to have a baby after cancer treatment	<a href="#">23</a>
■ Some questions about distress to see if you need help	<a href="#">23</a>



## How is invasive cancer treated?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some women first receive chemotherapy to shrink tumors before surgery. A cancer drug, called a HER2 antibody, may be added if the cancer is HER2 positive.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">26</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgery to remove the cancer is often a key part of treatment. For some women, a lumpectomy to spare breast tissue is an option. Other women receive a total mastectomy, which removes the whole breast. At least a few lymph nodes will be removed for cancer testing. Some women have breast reconstruction to reshape or rebuild their breast(s).</li> </ul>	<a href="#">32</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent the cancer from returning, you may receive chemotherapy after surgery. Doctors decide to give chemotherapy based on many factors.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">42</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most women receive radiation therapy after surgery. The breast or chest wall may be treated. Nearby lymph node may be treated as well.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">44</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endocrine therapy is a standard treatment for hormone receptor–positive breast cancer. It is often taken for 5 to 10 years. It lowers the chance of the cancer returning.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">48</a>

## What does follow-up care involve?

It includes tests to check your overall health and for cancer. Also, care for ongoing or new health problems caused by cancer treatment will be given. Support for a healthy lifestyle is given since treatment results may be improved.	<a href="#">51</a>
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## What if the cancer returns?

Cancer that returns in the breast or nearby sites may be treated with surgery, radiation therapy, or both. Treatment with cancer drugs may be added.	<a href="#">52</a>
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## What are some tips for making good treatment decisions?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't be shy and ask your doctors questions. They are there to help.</li> <li>Get a second opinion. Even doctors get second opinions.</li> <li>Support groups can be helpful. You can learn a lot from others.</li> <li>Compare the pros and cons of each option.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">67</a>
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