

WOMEN'S CANCER INFORMATION PROJECT

Details of the Breast



What are Breasts?

The Breasts are glands !

In women, their main purpose is to produce milk after childbirth.

They are made up of a large number of glands that help produce and store milk at this time.

This image displays the internal construction of the breast, as viewed from the front. It details how the various glands are interconnected, and connected to the nipple.

The parts of the Breast Area:  (select from the list below)



Glands



Fatty Tissue



Breast Muscle

Risk Factors:

- Getting older, particularly after the menopause, or 50 years of age.
- Having a near relative who has developed breast cancer.
- Childbearing later in life - ie. first pregnancy after 30.
- Early menarche - first menstruation at an early age.
- Late menopause.
- Obesity - overweight.
- High alcohol intake.

Protective Factors:

- First pregnancy before 25 - this is highly protective.
- High fibre diet.

- High intake of fruit and vegetables.

Facts and Figures:

- In Ireland, one woman in 14 will develop breast cancer.
- In Ireland, one woman in 11 over the age of 50 will develop breast cancer.
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Irish women. It accounts for approximately 15% of female deaths from cancer.
- Compared with European countries, Ireland has the second highest level of deaths from breast cancer.



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