

MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS **RESEARCH SUMMARY**

TOPIC: **REVOLUTIONARY WAY TO REBUILD BREASTS AFTER CANCER**
REPORT: **MB #4723**

BACKGROUND:

Breast cancer is when there is an overgrowth of cells in the breast. Men and women can have it, but it is more common in women. It begins when there is a mutation in the cell's DNA, and this could be DNA passed from a parent, which means it was inherited. There is also an acquired mutation, which is when the mutation begins in the breast cells on its own. The most common symptom of breast cancer is a new lump or mass. They can be painless, hard, and irregular, or they can be tender, soft, round, or painful. Other symptoms may include breast swelling, nipple retraction, nipple discharge, swollen lymph nodes, and red, dry, flaky, or thickened breast skin. (Source: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/about/breast-cancer-signs-and-symptoms.html>)

DIAGNOSIS:

Diagnosing breast cancer can be done through a breast exam, which is to feel if your breasts have any unusual lumps, a mammogram, which is an x-ray of the breast to see if there is an abnormality inside, a breast ultrasound, which is using sound waves to see if a lump is a mass or cyst, or a biopsy, which is when a sample of tissue is taken from the breast to determine if the cells are cancerous. (Source: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/breast-cancer/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20352475>)

TREATMENT:

When someone is diagnosed with breast cancer, they may have surgery done. Breast-conserving surgery is when the cancerous part of the breast is removed. A mastectomy is when the entire breast is removed. After these surgeries, other options include radiation, which is when high-energy rays are used to destroy cancer cells to prevent the cancer from returning, and chemotherapy, which is when anti-cancer drugs are injected into the veins to potentially kill off remaining cancer cells. (Source: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/treatment.html>)

NEW BREAST RECONSTRUCTION SURGERY:

Dr. Aldona Spiegel, a plastic surgeon at Houston Methodist Hospital, created a new approach to breast reconstruction surgery so that the breast appears natural looking. Instead of placing the implant under the chest muscle and adding new collagen to the lower half, she places an internal dermal brassiere made of acellular dermal matrix that holds the implant in the same spot where the tissue was removed. This is a more natural reconstruction without deforming the muscle or grabbing the skin. (Source: <https://www.tmc.edu/news/2019/11/a-new-way-to-reconstruct-breasts-inspired-by-sewing/>)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT:

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If this story or any other Ivanhoe story has impacted your life or prompted you or someone you know to seek or change treatments, please let us know by contacting Marjorie Bekaert Thomas at mthomas@ivanhoe.com