

Mastectomy

Table 2. TYPES OF OPERATIONS

Type	Description
Partial mastectomy; also called breast-conserving surgery, lumpectomy, or wide excision	<p>The lump in your breast is taken out, along with some of the normal breast tissue around it, to get clear margins. This is followed by radiation therapy to the part of the breast that remains. Survival rates are the same as with the modified radical mastectomy when cancer is treated in its early stages.</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i> If you are large-breasted, most of your breast is preserved. You have a better appearance than with a modified radical mastectomy. There is little possibility of loss of muscle strength.</p> <p><i>Disadvantages:</i> If you have small or medium-size breasts, you will have a noticeable change in your breast shape. You must undergo radiation treatments. If lymph nodes are not taken out, cancer may spread undetected.</p>
Lymph node dissection; also called axillary lymph node dissection	<p>Lymph nodes are taken out in the hollow of your armpit. Usually done at the same time as breast operation.</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i> Doctor can check to see if there is cancer in nodes.</p> <p><i>Disadvantages:</i> You have a risk of developing lymphedema.</p>
Total or simple mastectomy	<p>Entire breast is removed.</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i> Your chest muscles are not taken out and there is little loss of arm strength. Breast reconstruction is easier.</p> <p><i>Disadvantages:</i> The breast is removed. This operation is not a common one today.</p>
Modified radical mastectomy	<p>Entire breast, lining over chest muscles and lymph nodes under arm taken out. Usually only the smaller of the two chest muscles taken out. Survival rates are the same as with the partial mastectomy plus radiation therapy when cancer is treated in its early stages.</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i> Your chest muscles are not taken out. You can have breast reconstruction and you can plan it before your operation.</p> <p><i>Disadvantages:</i> Your breast is removed. You have a risk of developing lymphedema.</p>