

## Breast cancer surgery

Use this grid to help you and your healthcare professional decide whether you should have a mastectomy, or a lumpectomy with radiotherapy.

Frequently asked questions	Lumpectomy with radiotherapy	Mastectomy
<b>What is removed?</b>	The cancer lump is removed, with some surrounding tissue.	The whole breast is removed.
<b>Which surgery is best for long-term survival?</b>	Survival rates are the same for both options.	Survival rates are the same for both options.
<b>What are the chances of cancer coming back in the breast?</b>	Breast cancer will come back in the breast in about 10 in 100 women (10%) in the 10 years after a lumpectomy. Recent improvements in treatment may have reduced this risk.	Breast cancer will come back in the area of the scar in about 5 in 100 women (5%) in the 10 years after a mastectomy. Recent improvements in treatment may have reduced this risk.
<b>Will I need more than one operation?</b>	Possibly, if there are still cancer cells in the breast after the lumpectomy. This can occur in up to 20 in 100 women (20%).	No, unless you choose breast reconstruction.
<b>How long will it take to recover?</b>	Most women are home within 24 hours of surgery.	Most women are home within 48 hours of surgery.
<b>Will I need radiotherapy?</b>	Yes, for up to six weeks after surgery.	Radiotherapy is not usually given after a mastectomy.
<b>Will I need to have my lymph glands removed?</b>	Some or all of the lymph glands in the armpit are usually removed.	Some or all of the lymph glands in the armpit are usually removed.
<b>Will I need chemotherapy?</b>	You may be offered chemotherapy, but this does not depend on the operation you choose.	You may be offered chemotherapy, but this does not depend on the operation you choose.
<b>Will I lose my hair?</b>	Hair loss is common after chemotherapy.	Hair loss is common after chemotherapy.

You can find more information at [www.bresdex.com](http://www.bresdex.com).

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**Evidence document:** [http://www.optiongrid.org/resources/breastcancer\\_evidence.pdf](http://www.optiongrid.org/resources/breastcancer_evidence.pdf)

**More information:** <http://www.optiongrid.org/about.php>

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