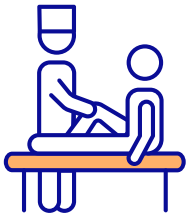
CHAPTER 6



BREAST AND AXILLA EXAMINATION

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1. Topographic Anatomy of the Breast

The base of the breast is located between the 2nd/3rd rib and the 6th/7th rib. The lateral border is formed by the anterior axillary line and the medial border is formed by the *Parasternal Line*. The anterior axillary line extends from the tuberosity of the humerus to the spina iliaca anterior superior (SIAS). The parasternal line is a line parallel to the midline passing through the junction of the sternum and the costal cartilages.

The nipple is considered to be on the midclavicular line, which extends from the midpoint of the clavicle to the middle of the inguinal ligament. The nipple-areola complex (NAC) consists of the nipple and the pigmented areola, both of which have similar structures. The areola's subcutaneous tissue is composed of vertical and circular muscles.

The breast tissue is located between the two layers (superficial and deep) of the superficial thoracic fascia. Cooper's (suspensory) ligaments extend between the two fascial layers and support the breast tissue, maintaining its shape. Invasive tumors can invade these ligaments, causing retraction of the breast skin.

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4	Suspicious findings 4A: Slightly suspicious (Probability of malignancy 2-10%) 4B: Moderately suspicious (Probability of malignancy 10-50%) 4C: Highly suspicious (Probability of malignancy 50-95%)	Group including findings with a probability of cancer ranging from 2% to 95%. Whether to perform a biopsy is decided considering clinical findings.
5	Findings highly suggestive of malignancy	Cases with a probability of malignancy of 95-99%. Biopsy is necessary
6	Examinations in a diagnosed case	Malignant cases (diagnosed with biopsy) but have not yet received definitive treatment.

References

1. Dunphy JE, Botsford TW. Physical examination of the surgical patient. (1959). 2e. W. B. Saunders Co.
2. Henderson JA, Duffee D, Ferguson T. Breast Examination Techniques. (2023) In: StatPearls [Internet]. StatPearls Publishing.