

# Breast Cancer Glossary

## Biology, Genetics & Molecular Terms

Term	Definition
Biomarker	A biological indicator used to diagnose or guide treatment.
BRCA1 / BRCA2	Genes that help repair DNA; mutations increase cancer risk.
ESR1 Mutation	A mutation linked to resistance to hormone therapy.
Genomic Profiling	Testing tumor DNA to guide personalized treatment.
Ki-67	A marker showing how quickly cancer cells are growing.
Molecular Subtyping	Classifying cancer based on genetic and receptor features.
PIK3CA Mutation	A genetic mutation that can drive cancer growth.

## Cancer Types & Subtypes

Term	Definition
Ductal Carcinoma	Cancer that begins in the milk ducts.
HER2-Low	Low HER2 expression; may qualify for newer treatments.
HER2-Positive	Cancer with excess HER2 protein.
Hormone Receptor-Positive	Cancer that grows in response to hormones.
Lobular Carcinoma	Cancer that begins in milk-producing glands.
Triple-Negative Breast Cancer	Aggressive cancer lacking hormone and HER2 receptors.

## Diagnostic & Screening Terms

Term	Definition
Biopsy	Removal of tissue to test for cancer.
ctDNA	Cancer DNA fragments found in the bloodstream.
Liquid Biopsy	Blood test that detects cancer DNA.
Mammogram	X-ray used to detect breast abnormalities.
MRI	Imaging that provides detailed views of breast tissue.
Radiomics	Use of imaging data and AI to analyze tumors.
Screening	Testing to detect cancer before symptoms appear.
Ultrasound	Uses sound waves to examine breast tissue.

## Treatment Terms

Term	Definition
ADC	Targeted therapy delivering chemotherapy directly to cancer cells.
CDK4/6 Inhibitors	Medications that slow cancer cell division.
Chemotherapy	Drugs used to kill cancer cells.
Checkpoint Inhibitors	Immunotherapy drugs that help the immune system recognize cancer.
Endocrine Therapy	Hormone-blocking treatment.
Immunotherapy	Boosts the immune system to fight cancer.
PARP Inhibitors	Drugs used especially for BRCA-related cancers.
Targeted Therapy	Drugs that attack specific cancer cell markers.

## Surgical & Medical Procedures

Term	Definition
Axillary Dissection	Removal of lymph nodes under the arm.
Breast Reconstruction	Surgery to rebuild the breast after removal.
Cryoablation	Freezing cancer cells to destroy them.
Lumpectomy	Removal of tumor while preserving the breast.
Mastectomy	Surgical removal of the breast.
Robotic Surgery	Minimally invasive surgery using robotic tools.
Sentinel Node Biopsy	Testing first lymph node(s) for cancer spread.

## Symptoms, Side Effects & Patient Experience

Term	Definition
Edema	Swelling caused by fluid buildup.
Fatigue	Extreme tiredness from cancer or treatment.
Lymphedema	Swelling due to lymph system damage.
Nausea	Feeling of sickness often caused by treatment.
Neuropathy	Nerve damage causing numbness or tingling.
Scar Tissue	Fibrous tissue formed after surgery or injury.

## Equity, Access & Innovation

Term	Definition
Clinical Trials	Research studies testing new treatments.
Disparities	Differences in care or outcomes among groups.

Health Equity	Fair access to healthcare for all individuals.
Precision Oncology	Personalized treatment based on genetics.
Telemedicine	Remote healthcare via phone or video.

## Disease Progression & Outcomes

Term	Definition
Metastasis	Spread of cancer to other parts of the body.
Minimal Residual Disease	Small number of cancer cells remaining after treatment.
pCR	No detectable cancer after treatment.
Recurrence	Return of cancer after treatment.
Resistance	Cancer no longer responds to treatment.
Survival Rate	Percentage of people who survive after diagnosis.

## Lifestyle, Prevention & Support

Term	Definition
Advocacy	Raising awareness and supporting cancer initiatives.
Early Detection	Finding cancer early when it is most treatable.
Lifestyle Factors	Habits like diet and exercise affecting health.
Prevention	Actions taken to reduce cancer risk.
Supportive Care	Care focused on improving quality of life.
Survivorship	Life after cancer treatment and recovery.

**Important Disclaimer** - The information provided in this document is for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice. Always consult your healthcare provider regarding diagnosis, treatment, and medical decisions.