Stage I Breast Cancer: Initial Workup and Surveillance for Local Recurrence and Distant Metastases in Asymptomatic Women

Stage I breast cancer (https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/breast-cancer) is divided into two stages: stage IA and stage IB. In stage IA breast cancer, the tumor is 20 mm or smaller, and the cancer has not spread to the lymph nodes under the arm. In stage IB breast cancer, the tumor is 20 mm or smaller, and the cancer has spread to the lymph nodes under the arm on the same side as the tumor.

Imaging tests to look for breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body are not recommended for women who don’t have any symptoms and are newly diagnosed with stage I breast cancer.

After treatment for cancer, imaging tests are recommended to monitor women for a return of cancer to the breast, the lymph nodes, or the chest wall. Mammography (https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/mammo) or digital breast tomosynthesis (https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/tomosynthesis) (also called “3-D mammography”) is usually appropriate. MRI of the breasts (https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/breastmr) with and without contrast and ultrasound of the breasts (https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/breastus) may also be appropriate.

For more information, please see the Breast Cancer (https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/breast-cancer) page.

— By Rachael Newman and Nina Vincoff, MD. This information originally appeared in the Journal of the American College of Radiology.

Disclaimer

This information is copied from the RadiologyInfo Web site (http://www.radiologyinfo.org) which is dedicated to providing the highest quality information. To ensure that, each section is reviewed by a physician with expertise in the area presented. All information contained in the Web site is further reviewed by an ACR (American College of Radiology) - RSNA (Radiological Society of North America) committee, comprising physicians with expertise in several radiologic areas.

However, it is not possible to assure that this Web site contains complete, up-to-date information on any particular subject. Therefore, ACR and RSNA make no representations or warranties about the suitability of this information for use for any particular purpose. All information is provided "as is" without express or implied warranty.

Please visit the RadiologyInfo Web site at http://www.radiologyinfo.org to view or download the latest information.

Note: Images may be shown for illustrative purposes. Do not attempt to draw conclusions or make diagnoses by comparing these images to other medical images, particularly your own. Only qualified physicians should interpret images; the radiologist is the physician expert trained in medical imaging.

Copyright

This material is copyrighted by either the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), 820 Jorie Boulevard, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2251 or the American College of Radiology (ACR), 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4397. Commercial reproduction or multiple distribution by any traditional or electronically based reproduction/publication method is prohibited.

Copyright © 2024 Radiological Society of North America, Inc.