

## Word List

**Abnormal cells:** cells that do not look or act like the healthy cells of the body

**Aggressive cancer cells:** cells that are fast growing and can spread beyond the small area where they started

**Anti-HER-2 antibody therapy:** a medicine used to treat breast cancer that has abnormal HER-2 proteins

**Aromatase inhibitor:** medicine that lowers the levels of estrogen in the body (after menopause)

**Axillary lymph nodes:** lymph nodes under your arms that drain lymph from breast tissue

**Biopsy:** an operation to take out tissue to check if it is cancer or not

**c-erb-2:** another name for the HER-2 gene or protein

**Clean margins:** means that the normal tissue around the tumor is free of cancer cells

**Close margins:** means that cancer cells come near the outer edge of the tissue around the tumor

**Colloid:** a type of invasive cancer that grows into the normal tissue around it; it usually grows slowly

**Comedo:** a type of non-invasive cancer that usually does not spread; it tends to grow fast

**Cribiform:** a type of non-invasive cancer that does not spread and usually grows slowly

**Ductal Carcinoma in situ (DCIS):** a non-invasive cancer that stays inside the milk ducts (pipes) and usually doesn't spread

**erb-2:** another name for the HER-2 gene

**ER-negative:** a tumor that does not have estrogen receptors

**ER-positive:** a tumor that has estrogen receptors

**FISH (Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization) test:** one type of test for the HER-2 gene

**Gene:** part of the body's code for making new cells and controlling the growth and repair of the cells

**Glands:** This word has a few different meanings. It can be a group of cells or an organ that makes one or more substances used in the body, like sweat, milk, mucus, hormones, and growth factors. Other glands filter and remove substances from the blood or lymph fluid. Some people use the word "gland" to describe lymph nodes.

**Grade:** tells you how much the tumor cells look different from normal cells

**HER-2:** a gene that helps control the growth and repair of cells

**Hormone receptors:** tiny areas like ears on cells that listen and respond to signals from hormones

**IHC (immunohistochemistry) test:** one type of test for proteins, like ER and HER 2.

**In situ:** a cancer that stays inside the part of the breast where it started; it does not spread, but over time, in situ cancers can develop into invasive cancers

**Invasive:** a cancer that spreads beyond the place where it started

**Invasive Ductal Carcinoma (IDC):** a cancer that begins in the milk duct but grows into the normal breast tissue around it

**Invasive Lobular Carcinoma (ILC):** a cancer that starts inside the milk-making gland, but grows into the normal breast tissue around it

**Irregular cells:** cells that do not look like the healthy cells of the body

**Ki-67:** a test that shows how fast cancer is growing

**Lobular Carcinoma in situ (LCIS):** cancer that has cells that are not normal but that stay inside the milk-making part of the breast

**Lymphatic invasion:** means that cancer cells are found in the lymph vessels

**Lymph nodes:** filters along the lymph fluid channels; they try to catch and trap cancer cells before they reach other parts of the body

**Margins:** the normal tissue around the tumor that was taken out

**Medullary:** a type of invasive cancer that grows into the normal tissue around it

**Milk ducts:** tiny tubes in the breast through which milk flows to the nipple

**Milk lobules:** milk-making glands in the breast

**Mucinous:** a type of invasive cancer that spreads into the normal tissue around it

**Negative margins:** means that the tissue around the tumor is free of cancer cells

**Non-invasive:** a cancer that stays inside the breast part where it started

**Papillary:** a type of non-invasive cancer that does not spread and tends to grow slowly

**Pathologist:** a doctor who looks at tissue under a microscope to see if it's normal or affected by disease

**Positive margins:** means that cancer cells come up to the edge of the normal tissue around the tumor

**Pre-cancerous:** a tumor that is not considered a cancer; it is a warning sign that you may get cancer in the future

**PR-negative:** a tumor that does not have progesterone receptors

**PR-positive:** a tumor that has progesterone receptors

**Recurrence:** when a cancer comes back again

**Solid:** a type of cancer that is non-invasive; it does not spread and tends to grow slowly

**S-phase fraction test:** a test that shows how fast a cancer IS growing

**Stage:** a category used to describe the level of severity of breast cancer, based on the size of the tumor, the extent to which the tumor is involved with the skin, muscles, and other tissues next to it, and lymph node involvement.

**Tamoxifen:** medicine that stops estrogen from reaching hormone receptors on tumors

**Tubular:** a type of invasive cancer that grows into the normal tissue around it; it usually grows slowly

**Vascular invasion:** means that cancer cells are found in the blood vessels