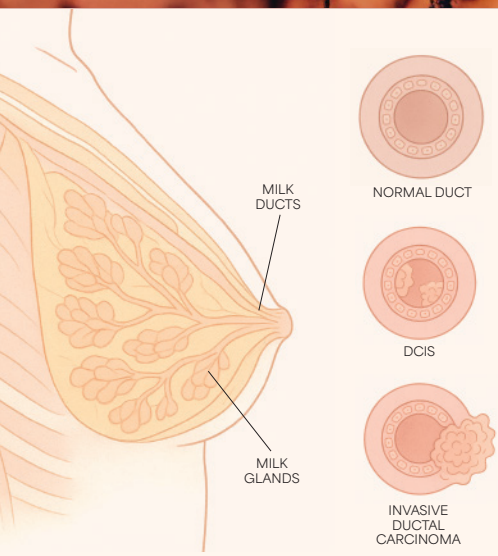
DCIS understood

Demystifying Ductal Carcinoma In Situ



What is DCIS?

- DCIS stands for Ductal Carcinoma in Situ.
- It means abnormal cells are found in the milk ducts of the breast.
- It's a non-invasive condition, meaning the cells have not spread outside the ducts to other parts of the breast or body.
- Many doctors call it "Stage 0" breast cancer, a pre-cancer, or a risk factor for invasive cancer.

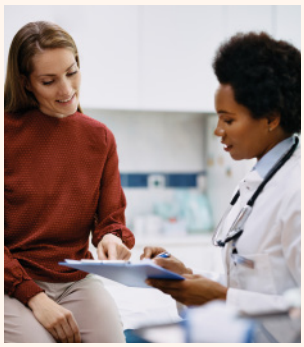
While DCIS is not life-threatening, it can increase the risk of developing invasive breast cancer in the future.

Early detection means you have time to learn, ask questions, and make the best decisions for your care.

Your Feelings are Valid

We understand this diagnosis can feel overwhelming.

- You may feel anxious or confused.
- It's normal to have questions like:
  - Do I need surgery?
  - Will this turn into invasive cancer?
  - What are my options?



You Are Not Alone

Nearly **60,000** women in the U.S. are diagnosed with DCIS each year, accounting for **20-25%** of all breast cancer diagnoses.

DCIS Understood is here to help you navigate every step of your diagnosis and treatment with information, support, and connection to a community of shared experience.

You Have Options

Treatment choices may include:

- **Surgery:** Lumpectomy (removal of part of the breast) or mastectomy (removal of the entire breast), and reconstruction options.
- **Radiation therapy:** Targeted high-energy rays used to kill any DCIS cells that may remain after surgery.
- **Hormone or endocrine therapy:** Medication that blocks or lowers certain hormones in the body that can fuel the growth of DCIS cells.
- **Active surveillance:** Careful monitoring with regular imaging and exams, without immediate surgery. This is not standard care but may be available to some low-risk patients in clinical trials or specialized settings.

Next Steps

1. Ask for your pathology report and understand what it means.
2. Work with your doctor to consider all risk-influencing factors – there's no one-size-fits-all answer.
3. Learn about each treatment option and potential side effects before making decisions.
4. Get a second opinion if you are unsure about your doctor's plan.

How We Can Help

DCIS Understood's Website Provides:

- Clear, trustworthy information in plain language
- Question lists for medical appointments
- Patient stories and support resources
- Information on the latest research & clinical trials

We believe that informed, shared decision-making is essential for DCIS care.

Contact & Support: For more information, visit: www.dcisunderstood.org