

Inflammatory Breast Cancer

Inflammatory breast carcinoma is primarily a clinical diagnosis. With inflammatory breast cancer, the cancer cells block lymph vessels in the skin of the breast. The term “inflammatory” is used because the breast often looks swollen and red, or inflamed.



Inflamed, red, swollen breast

- Presentation with diffuse erythema and edema (peau d’orange) involving a THIRD or more of the breast skin is needed to be considered “inflammatory carcinoma”.
- Locally advanced breast cancers which directly invade the dermis or ulcerate the skin *without* clinical skin changes and tumor emboli in dermal lymphatics do not qualify as inflammatory carcinoma.

~AJCC Cancer Staging Manual 7th Ed

When an MD makes a diagnosis of “inflammatory carcinoma” this is usually describing the clinical presentation. Often there is no discrete palpable mass. However, pathologic biopsy and/or surgery will indicate the actual underlying tumor histology.

Coding histology for inflammatory carcinoma: Code histology to the cell type found at bx and/or surgery from the pathology report.



peau d’orange

Example:

MD states patient with inflammatory ca evidenced by diffuse erythema extending over half the breast, with areas of peau d’orange, w/o distinct breast mass. Biopsy and mastectomy both positive for infiltrating Ductal carcinoma.

- **Code histology to 8500 (infiltrating ductal ca)**
- **Only code “inflammatory carcinoma” 8530 when you have no other information on histology**

TNM Tip

Skin invasion for staging purposes in *TNM* is defined as *full thickness* involvement including the epidermis (T4).

- Focal dermal invasion does not qualify for T4 and instead would be assigned T1 through T3 depending on tumor size.
 - See AJCC Staging Moments-Breast Case #2 on AJCC website
- Inflammatory carcinoma = T4d, however a careful review of records is needed.
- Dimpling of skin, nipple retraction, or any other skin change (except as described under T4b & T4d per AJCC) may occur in T1, T2 or T3 tumors without changing the T category.

Don’t mix rules: Summary Stage rules for skin invasion differ- ALL skin invasion in SS2000 is regional (code 2) from focal to inflammatory.

Breast Cancer SINC’s

Inflammatory Breast

- **20000551-** Primary site code for inflammatory breast with & w/o palp mass
- **20081036** -MP/H second inflammatory ca

General Breast 2015

- **20150026-** Coding Lupron if used in Breast cancer treatment
- **20150042-** Incidental LNs found in breast specimen but no axillary dissection
- **20150024-** Surgery code/ Lumpectomies with additional margin excision during same procedure



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