

Risks

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--|
|  | Tingling/numbness in arm |  | Stiffness in arm/armpit |
|  | Weakness |  | Infection in surgical area |
|  | Lymphedema |  | Lost or decreased sensation at the back of the arm or armpit |

- Inflammation of the arm veins

When to contact your doctor

You should contact your doctor immediately if you experience:

- Discomfort over the wound
- Heaviness in the arm
- Slight swelling over the wound
- Uncomfortable shoulder movements

Why Medanta - The Medicity?

We at Medanta have developed a dedicated unit of Medanta Breast Services to diagnose and treat the entire spectrum of conditions affecting breasts. The latest use of technology integrated with radiology as well as nuclear medicine enables us to quantify the risk of relapse and tailor therapies accurately. We are the only centre in India to offer MRI guided Vacuum assisted Breast Biopsy (VABB), Gamma probe for Sentinal Node Biopsy etc. for all the diseases of breast. Also, our unit has been designed on the guidelines laid down by the European Union Society of Mastology (EUSOMA). Our innovative treatment strategies and supportive environment make treatment as effective and comfortable as possible.



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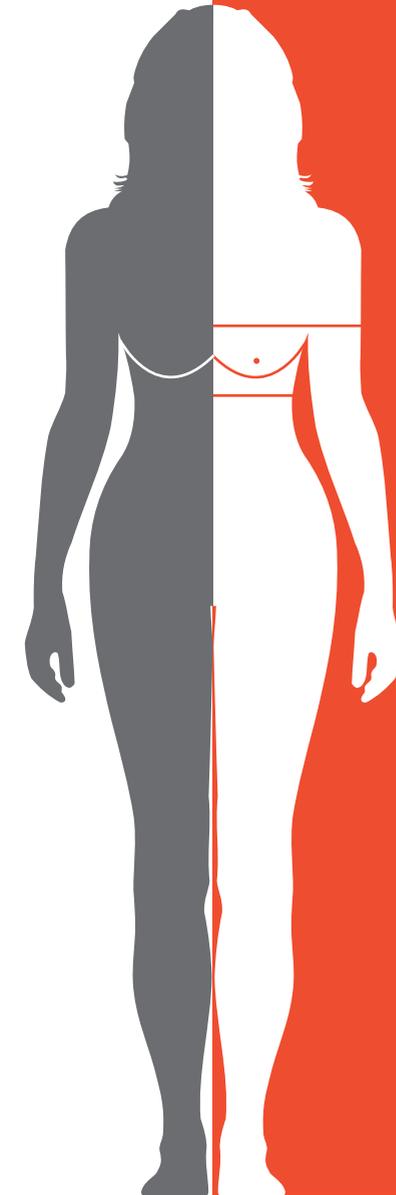
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PATIENT INFORMATION

AXILLARY CLEARANCE



MEDANTA
BREAST SERVICES

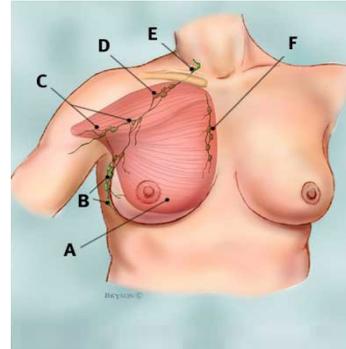


Introduction

Axillary clearance is the removal of the lymph nodes from the armpit to check for metastatic cancer cells. Removal of the affected lymph nodes from the armpit is an important part of your treatment for breast cancer.

Why is it done

Axillary clearance is performed to remove cancer affected lymph glands.



Lymph Node Areas Adjacent to Breast Area
 B Axillary lymph nodes: level I
 C Axillary lymph nodes: level II
 D Axillary lymph nodes: level III

Preparation for the procedure

There are no specific preparations required for this procedure. Your surgeon will give you specific instructions on how to prepare for surgery, including guidelines on eating and drinking, avoiding certain medications.

Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Bathe using antiseptic soap on the day of surgery, wash your hair.
- Brush your teeth properly on the day of surgery.
- Remove nail-polish.
- Preferably wax your armpit a few days before. Do not shave.
- Remove all your jewellery.
- Bring
 - Cotton bra
 - Front open cotton shirt/top
 - Pair of comfortable slippers
 - Lip balm
 - Body lotion
 - Reading materials

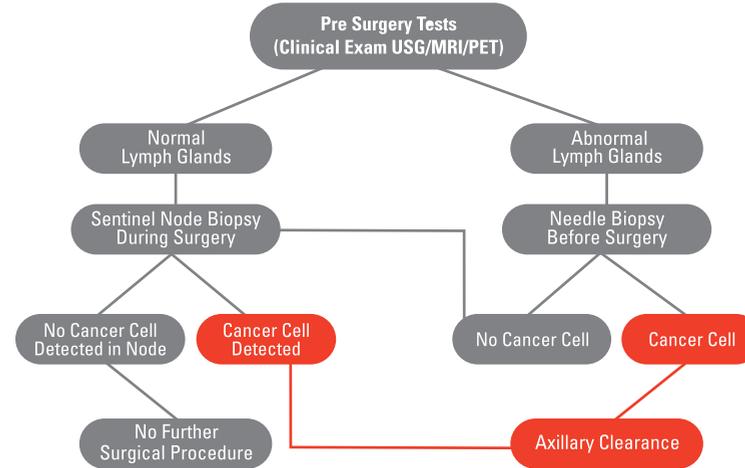
Don'ts

- Do not wear makeup/nail-polish
- Do not wear any kind of jewellery/hand or wrist bands
- Do not bring a synthetic/under-wire bra

- Do not use talc/body spray's/body lotion on the body on the day of surgery

Note: Carefully following these instructions will help your surgery go more smoothly.

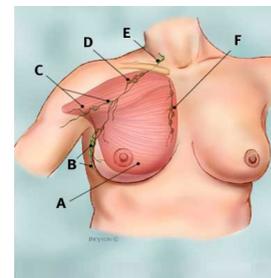
Pre Surgery Tests



Note: In Patients where pre-surgery tests show normal lymph glands, a Sentinel Node Biopsy is planned. If the Sentinel Node is tested as positive for cancer during the surgery, then also an axillary clearance is performed.

During the Procedure

Usually in this procedure the lower two levels (B and C in illustrations) of the three levels of axillary nodes are removed. If a patient has a modified radical mastectomy, axillary clearance usually occurs in the same operation. However, in cases where patients have a lumpectomy, the axillary clearance may occur at the same time or in a later operation. At the end of the operation, you will have 2 drains.



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Drains

Drains are long tubes that are inserted into your breast area or armpit. The

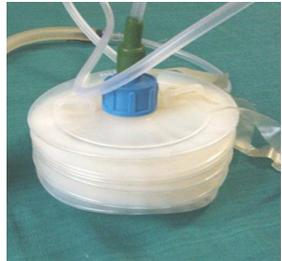
tubes have plastic bulbs on the ends to create suction, which helps the fluid to exit your body. This serves as an outlet for collecting excess fluid that can accumulate in the space where the tumour was. Drains are held in place through a single stitch and is generally kept for 5-7 days, however if it drains a lot of fluid, then it is kept for longer.



Vacuum drain without suction

Removal of Drains

The drain is removed on the next OPD visit. Removal of the drain is pain-less procedure. It is removed by cutting the single stitch that holds it in place and post stitch removal the drain is pulled out. Post removal the site is replaced with small adhesive bandages that can be removed after 24 hours as the wound will heal on its own within this time period.



Vacuum drain with negative suction

After the procedure

You will wake up in the recovery room after your operation. While you are in the recovery room, a nurse will check your pulse and blood pressure regularly. Other symptoms after the procedure may include:

- Nausea
- Pain
- Scar
- Skin redness
- Bruising
- Fever
- Hematoma, collection of blood in the operated site
- Seroma, collection of fluid under the scar

Benefits

- Removal of tumour
- Definite diagnosis of whether the disease has spread to armpit lymph glands or not, thus helping in staging the cancer and defining the treatment strategy.