

## **Useful Terminology of Words or Phrases Commonly Associated With Breast Cancer**

**Adjuvant Therapy** – This is treatment which is given after removal of the entire known tumour, to reduce the risk of tumour recurrence either locally or elsewhere in the body

**Benign** - Describes a tumour or growth that is not cancerous but may still be capable of causing problems

**B5a** – Pathology score for Ductal carcinoma insitu

**B5b** – Pathology score for Invasive breast cancer

**Chemotherapy** -Drug treatment that kills cancer cells

**Needle (core) biopsy** - A needle is used to take a small piece of tissue from the lump or abnormal area.

**DCIS** – DCIS is the earliest possible form of breast cancer. There are cancer cells lining the ducts but these cells are completely contained (in situ) in the ducts. The cells haven't broken through the walls of the duct or grown into (invaded) surrounding breast tissue.

**Genetic** - A condition caused by abnormal genes (may be inherited)

**HER2/ Herceptin** – A test done by pathology to identify if a tumour is sensitive to herceptin. If the tumour is HER2 positive a course of herceptin may be given usually following chemotherapy.

**Histology** – A detailed analysis of the tumour made by a microscope examination performed by a pathologist.

**Lymphoedema** – Abnormal swelling of a part of the body.

**LCIS** –Lobular carcinoma in situ (also called lobular neoplasia) is not a cancer. It means there are changes in the cells lining the lobes where milk is made in the breast.

**Malignant** - Describes a tumour or growth that is cancerous. If a tumour is malignant it grows uncontrollably and can travel to other parts of the body.

**Mammogram** – A low-dose x-ray of the breast tissue. It allows a good diagnostic image to be obtained using the lowest dose of radiation possible.

**Mastectomy** – Surgical removal of the breast.

**Mastopexy** – An uplift of the breast

**Metastases** - Tumours that have spread from the first (primary) tumour into another part of the body. Also known as secondary tumours.

**Multidisciplinary Meeting - (MDT)** - A meeting comprising of all disciplines including Consultant surgeon, Consultant radiologist.

**Neo – Adjuvant** – Treatment given prior to removal of the tumour.

**Nottingham Prognostic Index** – This is a score calculated by combining the tumour size, grade and number of affected lymph nodes. Used as a guide when recommending different forms of drug treatment.

**Oestrogen Receptor Status** – (ER) Test performed by pathology to identifies tumours that are hormone sensitive

**Oncology** - The study and treatment of cancer

**Palliative** - Relief of a symptom (for example, pain) rather than cure of the disease

**Prognosis** - The expected outcome of a disease and its treatment

**Prosthesis** – A synthetic breast form designed to fit into a bra to replace either the whole breast or part of it to give symmetry.

**Radiotherapy** - The use of high-energy x-rays to destroy cancer cells

**Sentinel Node Biopsy** – Procedure used to check the lymph nodes for any signs of breast cancer.

**Seroma** – A build up of fluid that collects around the wound after surgery This may need to be aspirated, but can be reabsorbed by the body.

**Stereo Core Biopsy** – To obtain a sample from the breast using the x-ray machine for guidance. This is usually performed if calcification is seen within the breast

**Therapeutic Mammoplasty** - This is a breast reduction procedure which allows for a more generous lumpectomy to be performed

**Therapeutic Marker** – This is when a fine wire is used to identify the area to be removed from the breast during surgery. The wire is inserted under ultrasound It is usually performed when there is no lump to be felt, but has been seen on the mammogram or ultrasound.

**Vacuum Assisted Biopsy** – To obtain a sample of breast tissue or to remove an area of tissue. This can be ultrasound or stereo guided.

**Wide Local Excision** – More commonly known as a lumpectomy. This is when the cancer and an area of surrounding tissue is removed.