

# Option Grid

## Breast cancer surgery

Use this grid to help you and your clinician decide whether to have mastectomy or lumpectomy with radiotherapy.

Frequently asked questions	Lumpectomy with Radiotherapy	Mastectomy
<b>Which surgery is best for long term survival?</b>	There is no difference between surgery options.	There is no difference between surgery options.
<b>What are the chances of cancer coming back in the breast?</b>	Breast cancer will come back in the breast in about 10 in 100 women in the 10 years after a lumpectomy.	Breast cancer will come back in the area of the scar in about 5 in 100 women in the 10 years after a mastectomy.
<b>What is removed?</b>	The cancer lump is removed with a margin of tissue.	The whole breast is removed.
<b>Will I need more than one operation on the breast?</b>	Possibly, if cancer cells remain in the breast after the lumpectomy. This can occur in up to 5 in 100 women.	No, unless you choose breast reconstruction.
<b>How long will it take to recover?</b>	Most women are home 24 hours after surgery	Most women are home 2-3 days after surgery.
<b>Will I need radiotherapy?</b>	Yes, for up to 6 weeks after surgery.	Unlikely, radiotherapy is not routine after mastectomy.
<b>Will I need to have my lymph glands removed?</b>	Some or all of the lymph glands in the armpit are usually removed.	Some or all of the lymph glands in the armpit are usually removed.
<b>Will I need chemotherapy?</b>	Yes, you may be offered chemotherapy as well, usually given after surgery and before radiotherapy.	Yes, you may be offered chemotherapy as well, usually given after surgery and before radiotherapy.
<b>Will I lose my hair?</b>	Hair loss is common after chemotherapy.	Hair loss is common after chemotherapy.

More information can be found at [www.bresdex.com](http://www.bresdex.com)

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**Evidence document:** <http://www.optiongrid.co.uk/evidence>

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