Breast cancer isn't just one disease. It's many different cancers, with varying molecular structures, behaviors and side effects, but all developing in or near one area of the body: the breast. Understanding the various types of breast cancer, their drivers, and how they are treated may help demystify a complex disease.

Breast cancer is broadly categorized in two ways:

1. **Invasive Breast Cancer**
   - Breast cancer that has spread to nearby tissues or other parts of the body.
   - The most common type of breast cancer, accounting for about 1 in 5 invasive breast cancers.

2. **Noninvasive Breast Cancer**
   - Breast cancer that remains in the ducts and does not spread to nearby tissue.
   - Includes lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) and ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS).

### Invasive Breast Cancer Types

- **Invasive Ductal Carcinoma (IDC)**
  - Begins in the milk ducts and accounts for about 80% of invasive breast cancers.
- **Invasive Lobular Carcinoma (ILC)**
  - Begins in the lobules and is rarer, accounting for about 1 in 10 invasive breast cancers.
- **Papillary Carcinoma**
  - A rare type of invasive breast cancer that forms papillary structures, similar to the lining of the eye.
- **Mucinous Carcinoma**
  - A less common type of invasive breast cancer characterized by soft, gelatinous tumors.
- **Special Types**
  - **Metaplastic Carcinoma**
    - A rare form of breast cancer that involves soft, fleshy tumors.
  - **Paget’s Disease**
    - A rare type of invasive breast cancer that begins in the skin and breast tissue barriers and spreads to other parts of the body through the bloodstream or lymphatic system.

### Noninvasive Breast Cancer Types

- **Lobular Carcinoma in Situ (LCIS)**
  - A condition in which cancerous cells remain in the ducts and do not spread to nearby tissue.
  - Often found as a result of mammography screening and can be a marker for increased breast cancer risk.

### Treatment Options

- **Breast Cancer Surgery**
  - Options may include lumpectomy (breast-conserving surgery) or mastectomy (complete removal of the breast).
  - Localized approaches such as surgery and radiation therapy that treat the tumor and surrounding areas, as well as systemic treatments such as chemotherapy and hormonal or targeted therapies that affect the likelihood of recurrence.

- **Other Therapies**
  - Hormonal or targeted therapies that counteract HER2.
  - Chemotherapy.
  - Radiation therapy.

For more information, visit [www.cancercenter.com/breast-cancer/types/](www.cancercenter.com/breast-cancer/types/)

**SOURCES**

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