

Your Health Education

Breast Pain in Teens

Your Care Instructions

Breast tenderness and pain may come and go with your monthly periods (cyclic), or it may not follow any pattern (noncyclic). Breast pain is rarely caused by a serious health problem. You may need tests to find the cause.

Follow-up care is a key part of your treatment and safety. Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if you are having problems. It's also a good idea to know your test results and keep a list of the medicines you take.

How can you care for yourself at home?

- If your doctor gave you medicine, take it exactly as prescribed. Call your doctor if you think you are having a problem with your medicine.
- Take an over-the-counter pain medicine, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), or naproxen (Aleve). Read and follow all instructions on the label.
- Do not take two or more pain medicines at the same time unless the doctor told you to. Many pain medicines have acetaminophen, which is Tylenol. Too much acetaminophen (Tylenol) can be harmful.
- Wear a supportive bra, such as a sports bra or a jog bra.
- Cut down on the amount of fat in your diet. If you need help planning healthy meals, see a dietitian.
- Cut down on the amount of salt in your diet. Salty food can make you retain fluid, which may cause breast pain.
- Get plenty of exercise every day. Go for a walk or jog, ride your bike, or play sports with friends.
- Keep a healthy sleep pattern. Go to bed at the same time every night, and get up at the same time every day.

When should you call for help?

Call your doctor now or seek immediate medical care if:

- You have a fever.
- Your breast becomes red or swollen.
- Your pain spreads or gets worse.
- You have discharge from your nipple that looks like pus or blood.

Watch closely for changes in your health, and be sure to contact your doctor if:

- Your breast pain does not get better after 1 week.
- You have a lump or thickening in your breast or armpit.

Where can you learn more?

Go to <https://www.healthwise.net/patientEd>.

Enter **Z868** in the search box to learn more about **"Breast Pain in Teens: Care Instructions."**

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