

Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care & Research Centre

Breast Cancer Program

Seromas

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Seromas (a collection of fluid under the wound)

Information for patients after discharge home following:

- **Mastectomy**
- **Breast Reconstruction**
- **Axillary Clearance (removal of all the lymphglands under your arm)**

Following any of the above operations you may have had one or more drains placed at surgery to drain away the fluid that collects post-operatively.

Once these are removed some patients find that they continue to produce fluid and develop a swelling, which can be uncomfortable but is not anything to worry about. It is called a seroma. If this occurs you may need to return to the Breast cancer program clinic to have it drained. This is a simple procedure and is not painful.

The fluid only needs to be drained if there is a large swelling, or if it is causing you discomfort. A small swelling will often reabsorb itself, so drainage of a small seroma is not required.

A seroma is not an urgent problem, but if you are particularly uncomfortable or worried at the weekend and feel that you need to be seen before Monday, the nursing staff will do their best to arrange a time for you to see the on-call surgeon.