

## BIRADS LEXICON SUMMARY

A. **MASS**- is a space occupying lesions seen in two different projections. If a potential mass is seen only on a single projection it should be called a **DENSITY** until its three-dimensionality is confirmed.

1. Shape
  - a. **round**
  - b. **oval**
  - c. **lobular**
  - d. **irregular**
2. Margins
  - a. **circumscribed**
  - b. **microlobulated**
  - c. **obscured** -margins hidden by superimposed or adjacent normal tissue
  - d. **indistinct** -poor definition of the margins raises concern for infiltration and this is not likely due to superimposed normal breast tissue
  - e. **spiculated**
3. Density - relative to equal volume of fibroglandular breast tissue. Cancers are usual equal or increased density
  - a. **high density**
  - b. **equal density**
  - c. **low density**
  - d. **fat containing (radiolucent)**

## B. CALCIFICATIONS

1. Typically benign
  - a. **skin calcifications (dermal)**
  - b. **vascular calcifications**
  - c. **coarse or popcorn-like calcifications**
  - d. **large rod-like calcifications** - i.e. plasma cell mastitis
  - e. **round calcifications**
  - f. **lucent center calcifications**
  - g. **eggshell or rim calcifications**
  - h. **milk of calcium calcifications**
  - i. **suture calcifications**
  - j. **dystrophic calcifications** -usually post XRT or trauma, irregular
  - k. **punctate calcifications** - less than 0.5 mm with well defined margins
2. Intermediate concern calcifications
  - a. **amorphous or indistinct calcifications** - round or flake-shaped calcs, small or hazy appearance
3. Higher probability calcifications
  - a. **pleomorphic or heterogenous calcifications (granular)** - more conspicuous than the amorphous forms. Neither typically benign or typically malignant irregular calcs. Vary in size and shape and are usually less than 0.5 mm.
  - b. **Fine linear, or fine linear branching (casting) calcifications** - thin, irregular calcs that are linear but discontinuous and under 0.5 mm in width. Appearance suggests filling of the lumen of a duct involved irregularly by breast cancer.

4. Distribution modifiers - describe arrangement of calcifications
  - a. **grouped or clustered** - multiple calcs in a small volume (less than 2cc) of tissue
  - b. **linear** - calcs arranged in a line that may have branch points
  - c. **segmental** - suggests deposits in a duct and its branches
  - d. **regional** - calcs scattered in a large volume of tissue and not necessarily conforming to a duct distribution.
  - e. **Diffuse/scattered** - calcs distributed randomly through breast

#### C. ARCHITECTURAL DISTORTION

#### D. SPECIAL CASES

1. **Tubular density/solitary dilated duct** -
2. **Intramammary lymph node**
3. **Asymmetric breast tissue** - no focal mass, no central density, no distorted architecture and no assoc calcs. Used for greater volume of breast tissue, greater density or breast tissue or prominent ducts. Usually a normal variant but may be significant when it corresponds to a palpable abnl.
4. **Focal Asymmetric Density** - density that can't be accurately described by the other shapes. Asymmetry of tissue density with similar shape on two views but completely lacking borders and the conspicuity of a true mass. Could represent an island of normal breast, but lack of specific benign characteristics may warrant further evaluation.

#### E. ASSOCIATED FINDINGS

1. **skin retraction**
2. **nipple retraction**
3. **skin thickening**
4. **trabecular thickening**
5. **skin lesion**
6. **axillary adenopathy**