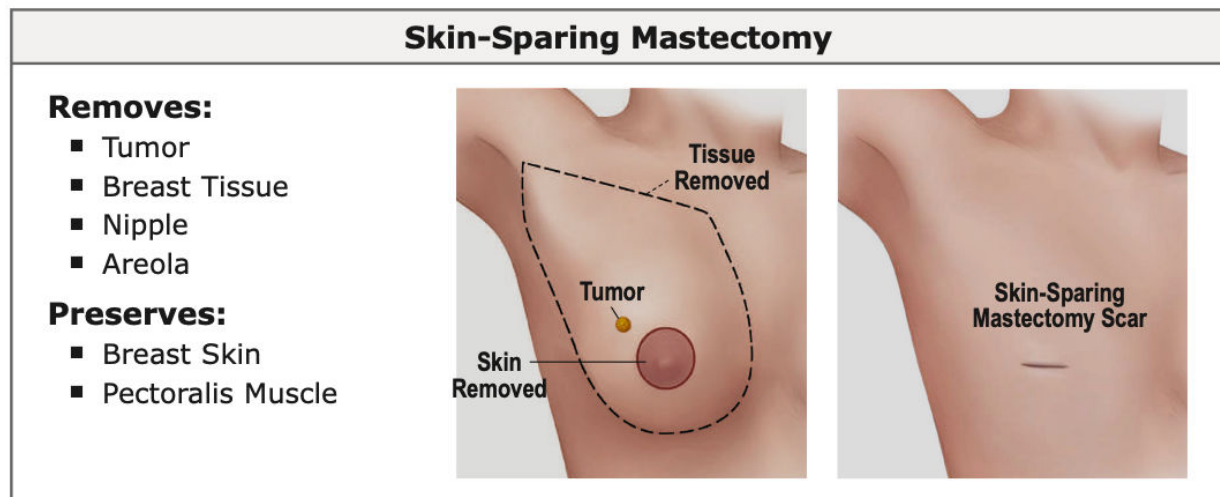


# Skin-Sparing Mastectomy

**Skin-sparing mastectomy** is a procedure used when performing a simple or total mastectomy that is to be followed by reconstruction. The method removes the breast tissues from a circular incision around the areola (dark colored circle). The nipple, areola, breast tissues and nodes are removed. Additional lymph nodes are removed according to the discretion of the surgeon. The procedure is often selected for in situ disease when reconstructive surgery is performed. The sparing of the skin allows reconstructive surgery to be performed with little need for a period of stretching of the skin. Skin sensation over the reconstructed breast remains intact. The reconstructive incision is made using the normal curve on the breast. This incision is not as visible because it is hidden under the fold of the breast and is concealed by the bra. The incision used to remove the breast is concealed by the reconstruction of a nipple and areola. Body tissues or implants may be used for reconstruction.



**Immediate reconstruction** is done through the original surgical incision. Autologous tissues or an implant may be used.

**Delayed reconstruction** may be done at the original surgical site or through a new incision located under the fold of the breast.