

**Department of Surgery
2026 Research Day
6th May 2026 (Wednesday) | 7 am – Noon | MART Auditorium**

Title:

Rare occurrence of ocular tumor of breast origin in setting of newly diagnosed metastatic breast cancer.

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Background: Breast cancer usually metastasizes to the bone, lung and brain. Metastasis to the eye is an exceedingly rare event, though eye metastases themselves are usually from breast cancer primaries. Very few cases have been published of de novo ocular tumors being of breast cancer origin. Both infiltrative ductal carcinoma and lobular can lead to ocular metastasis, with ductal being more common.

Case Description: 77-year-old female found to have an ocular tumor on an MRI one month prior to biopsy of right orbital lesion. The ophthalmology team discovered a left nipple lesion at the end of the case for which breast surgery was consulted for further management. Punch biopsy revealed invasive lobular breast cancer, with the ocular tumor biopsy pathology revealed breast tissue origin. Hormone receptor status was ER/PR positive, HER2 negative. The patient diagnosed with stage four breast cancer.

Conclusions: Ocular metastatic tumors from breast cancer are rare. When present, the tumors tend to occur >4 years after diagnosis making early detection difficult. This case presents a patient who presented for a routine biopsy of an ocular lesion who was incidentally noted to have a nipple lesion. On exam the patient had disruption of the nipple areolar complex with a palpable sub areolar mass and axillary lymphadenopathy. This case seeks to add to the literature on a rare case presentation and emphasize the importance of routine mammography as this patient went 20 years without screening. Continued patient education at the primary care level is imperative as well as having a high index of suspicion when ocular tumors are noted on MRIs