

Mayo Clinic's Medical Edge

Breast Cancer Risk

1:00

Log	Audio
Intro with music	GIVING YOU THE EDGE ON HEALTHY LIVING, HERE'S MAYO CLINIC'S MEDICAL EDGE.
	DR. LYNN HARTMANN AND HER COLLEAGUES AT MAYO CLINIC ARE LOOKING INSIDE THE BREAST AT THE TINY LOBULES -- THE SITE WHERE BREAST CANCER STARTS.
Lynn Hartmann	"THE LOBULE IS THE FUNCTIONAL UNIT OF THE BREAST. WHEN A WOMAN IS PREGNANT OR REACHES THE END OF HER PREGNANCY THEY EXPAND AND BECOME LITTLE MILK PRODUCING FACTORIES. AFTER A WOMAN IS FINISHED WITH CHILDBEARING, AS SHE APPROACHES MENOPAUSE, THE LOBULES ARE SUPPOSED TO GO AWAY."

WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN IS A
PROCESS CALLED INVOLUTION.
AND RESEARCH SHOWS THAT IF
THE LOBULES IN A WOMAN'S
BREAST DO NOT REGRESS BY AGE
55, SHE HAS THREE TIMES THE
RISK OF DEVELOPING BREAST
CANCER THAN WOMEN WHOSE
LOBULES DO. THE IDEA IS TO
DETERMINE MORE PRECISELY A
GIVEN WOMAN'S INDIVIDUAL RISK.
AND IF DOCTORS KNOW WHO IS AT
INCREASED RISK, THEY CAN HELP
THEM TAKE STEPS TO BETTER
CONTROL THAT RISK. FOR
MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN
WILLIAMS.