

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

- The student should know the:
- Anatomy of the axilla.
- Anatomy of the breast and relationship to the axilla
- Clinical importance of axilla in relation to breast diseases.

CASE SCENARIO:

A 30 years old female, is lactating her infant for the past 1 ½ months. She has suddenly developed excessive pain during feeding and has noticed a small cracking cut on the right nipple and around areola. She has observed excessive pain in raising her right hand above her head with a swelling in the lower side of her breast.

She is now reluctant the feed her baby.

One examination the physician noted an apparent difference in the size of both arms, swelling of upper right arm with a lump in right axilla 4x4 cms in size. On further examination, he noticed lump in the lower quadrant of her right breast.

- There is increased tenderness and it is hot on palpation with increased redness with cracks, and discharge from it.
- She is febrile.