

In this study, pus samples from seventy-one female patients admitted to the Breast Diseases Center, Hilla Teaching Hospital from September 2004 to June 2005 have been investigated. The samples have been classified into two groups: the first one included 53 lactating patients, ranging from 17 to 45 years , and the second did 18 non-lactating patients, where age ranged from 3 months to 57 years .

The results have revealed a remarkably high incidence of breast abscess among lactating patients (74.6%). The high infection rate (54.7%) in the first group has been among those who were 20-29 years old, whereas in the second group ,the high infection rate (44.4%) has been among those who were 40-49 years old .It has also been found that the breast abscess is higher among multiparty women (66.2%). As for the first group ,the high incidence of breast abscess occurs mostly at the third month postpartum (45.3%) .It has Also been found that the incidence of subcutaneous abscess is higher than other types of breast abscess among the first group patients (52.8%) , whereas in the second group , the subareolar abscess is higher than other types (77.8%) . Furthermore, it has been found that the high incidence of breast abscess occurs in the left breast (60.56%) .Meantime , infection is higher among women of rural area (64.8%).The results of the bacteriological diagnosis have revealed that the species and percentage of bacteria isolated from the first group are *Staphylococcus aureus* (73.6%), *Moraxella catarrhalis* (5.7%), *Streptococcus pyogenes* (3.8%) and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (1.9%). Whereas in the second group , the bacteria growth has been *S.aureus* (27.8%), *Arcanobacterium haemolyticum* (22.2%) and *M.catarrhalis* (11.1%) .