

# Massage for Post-Breast Cancer Surgery Complications

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## Problem:

Axillary web syndrome (AWS) is a common, painful complication of treatment for breast cancer. It has no reliable treatment protocol.



## Research Question:



Will Dynamic Angular Petrissage, a technique that incorporates passive movement with massage therapy relieve symptoms of AWS?

## Findings:

- A 45-year-old woman has painful, restrictive cording at her axilla and down the length of her arm
- Assessments: visual inspection of posture; active and passive range of motion (ROM) of the shoulder, elbow, and wrist; lymphedema is ruled out
- Two treatments within a 5-day period: a combination of massage with passive movement ("dynamic angular petrissage")
- After 2nd session: no pain, reduced restriction of movement
- 3-month follow-up: no cording, unrestricted ROM, no pain



## Application:



Dynamic angular petrissage may be helpful for pain and ROM for people with axillary web syndrome.

*Dynamic Angular Petrissage as Treatment for Axillary Web Syndrome Occurring after Surgery for Breast Cancer: a Case Report*  
<http://www.ijtmb.org/index.php/ijtmb/article/view/297/369>

