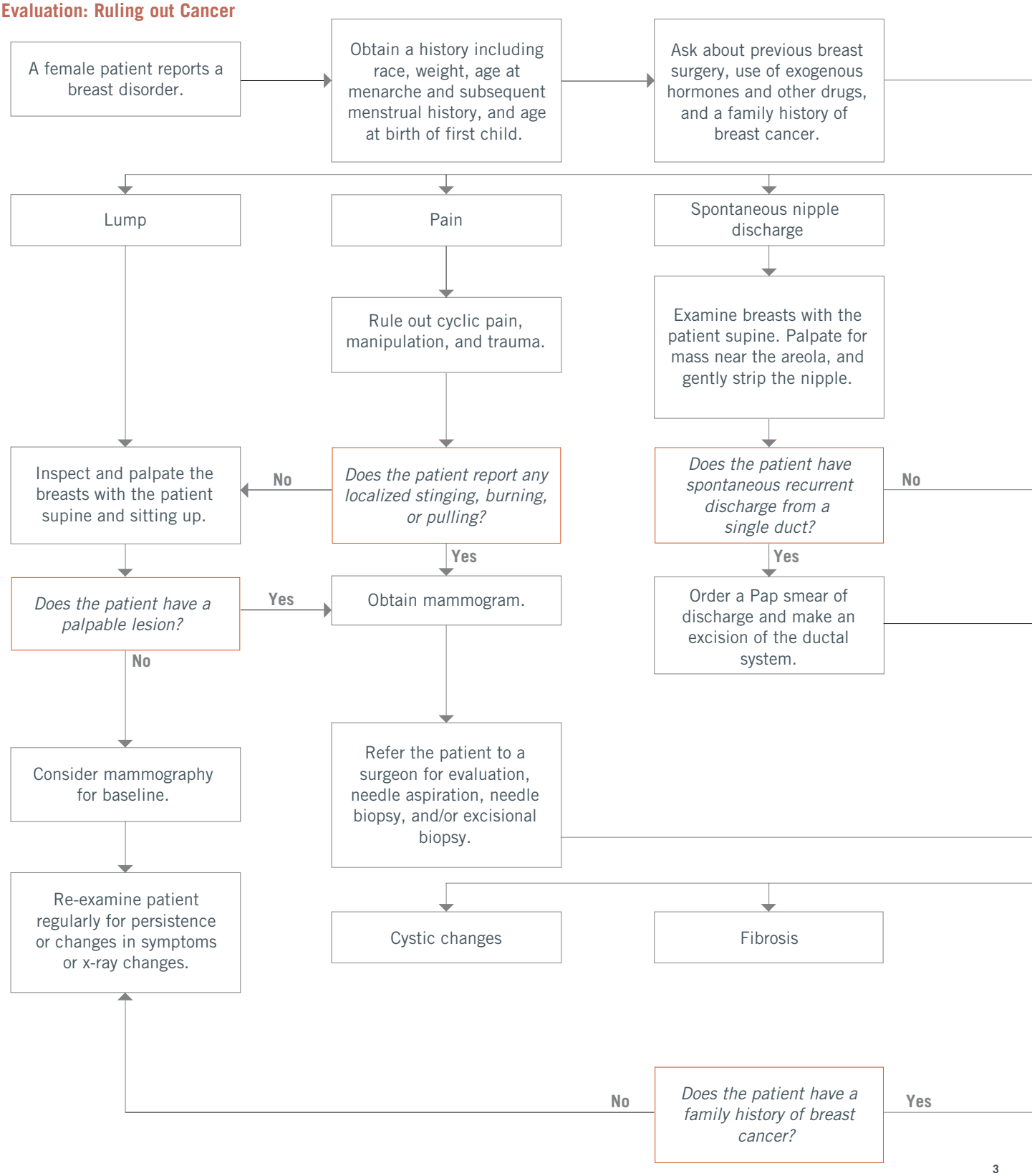
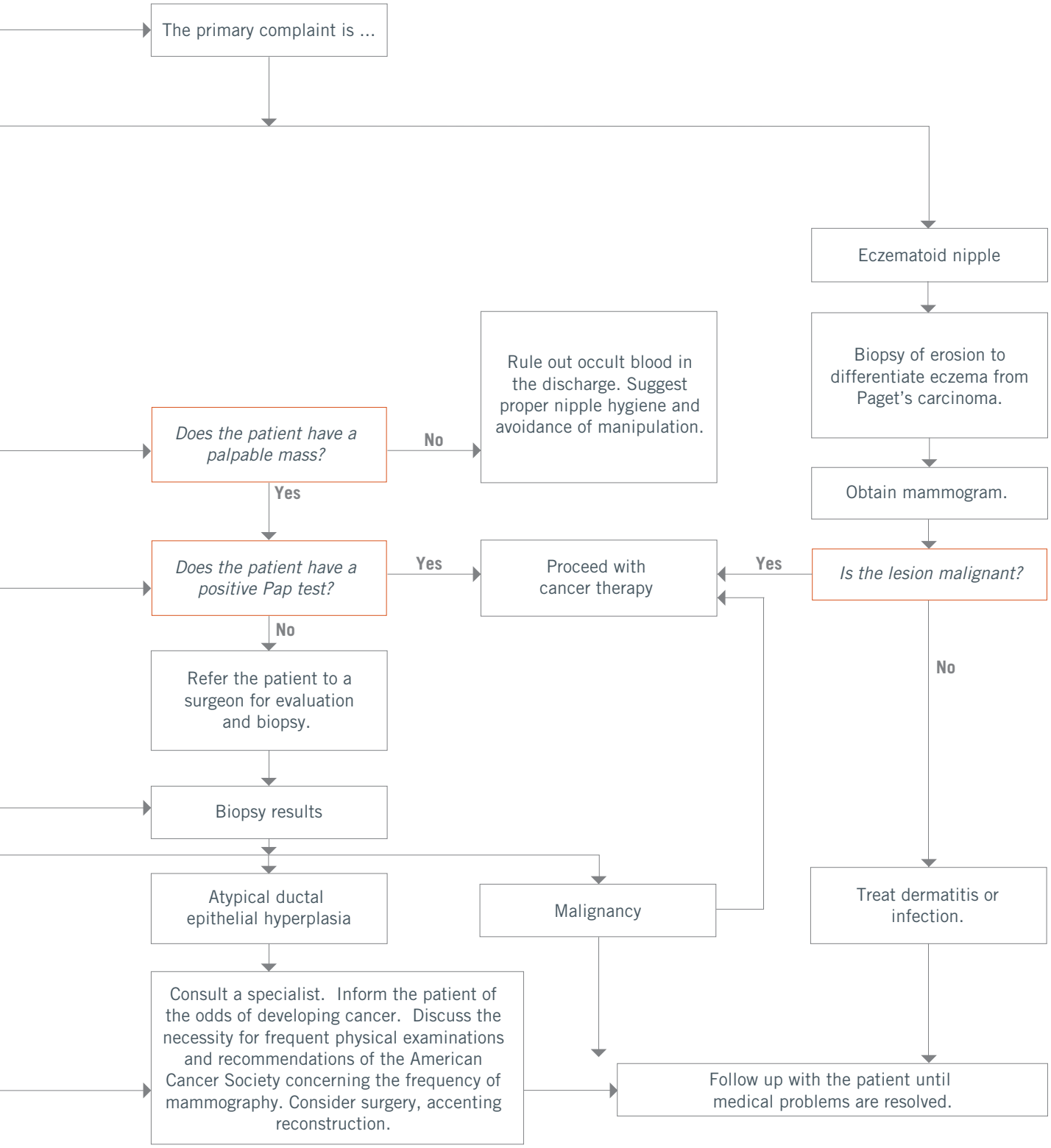
Breast Evaluation: Ruling out Cancer




The primary complaint is ...
Eczematoid nipple
Biopsy of erosion to differentiate eczema from Paget's carcinoma.
Obtain mammogram.
Is the lesion malignant?
Yes
No
Treat dermatitis or infection.
Does the patient have a palpable mass?
No
Rule out occult blood in the discharge. Suggest proper nipple hygiene and avoidance of manipulation.
Yes
Does the patient have a positive Pap test?
Yes
Proceed with cancer therapy
No
Refer the patient to a surgeon for evaluation and biopsy.
Biopsy results
Atypical ductal epithelial hyperplasia
Malignancy
Consult a specialist. Inform the patient of the odds of developing cancer. Discuss the necessity for frequent physical examinations and recommendations of the American Cancer Society concerning the frequency of mammography. Consider surgery, accenting reconstruction.
Follow up with the patient until medical problems are resolved.