Old versus new
Anatomy of the Lactating Breast

What has changed?
1. Ducts branch closer to the nipple
2. The conventionally described lactiferous sinuses do not exist
3. Glandular tissue is found closer to the nipple
4. Subcutaneous fat is minimal at the base of the nipple

Additional points to note
1. The ratio of glandular to fat tissue is 2:1
2. 65% of the glandular tissue is located in a 30 mm radius from the base of the nipple
3. The range of milk ducts exiting the nipple is 4–18
4. Complex ductal network, not always arranged in a radial or symmetrical pattern

These diagrams are based on research conducted at The University of Western Australia • Present in: Ramsay DT, Kent JC, Hartmann RA and Hartmann PE (2005) • Anatomy of the lactating human breast redefined with ultrasound imaging • Journal of Anatomy, 206:525-534