

What you should know about Breast Cancer



Breast cancer begins in the breast tissue that is made up of glands for milk production, called lobules, and the ducts that connect the lobules to the nipple.

All women are at risk for developing breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the 2nd deadliest cancer among women.

1 in 8

women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

3.1 million women living in the US have a history of breast cancer.

252,710

women are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer each year.

63,410 women are diagnosed with in situ breast cancer each year.

40,610

will die from breast cancer this year.

2,470 men are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. 460 will die from the disease this year.

Types of Breast Cancer

Ductal Carcinoma In Situ

A non-invasive breast cancer where abnormal cells have been contained in the lining of the breast milk duct.

Invasive Ductal Carcinoma

Means that abnormal cells that originated in the lining of the breast milk duct have invaded surrounding tissue.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Means that the cells in the tumor are negative for progesterone, estrogen, and HER2/neu receptors.

Inflammatory Breast Cancer

A less common form of breast cancer that may not develop a tumor and often affects the skin.

Metastatic Breast Cancer

A cancer that has spread beyond the breast, sometimes into the lungs, bones, or brain.

Breast Cancer During Pregnancy

Women who are diagnosed with breast cancer during pregnancy may face tremendous additional strain due to concern for the safety of the unborn child.

Source: National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. www.nationalbreastcancer.org

Stages of Breast Cancer

S.E.E.R. Summary Stage System

(Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results)

TNM Staging System

Local stage

Refers to cancers that are confined to the breast

5-Year Survival Rate:

99%

Regional stage

Refers to tumors that have spread to surrounding tissue or nearby lymph nodes

84%

Distant stage

Refers to cancers that have metastasized (spread) to distant organs or lymph nodes above the collarbone

24%



61% of cases are diagnosed in localized stages.

When diagnosed late (*distant stage*) instead of early (*local stage*), 5-year survival rate decreases by

57%

5-year survival is **5%** lower for women diagnosed before age 40.

Symptoms of Breast Cancer

- Painless lump (*most common*)
- Lump or swelling of underarm lymph nodes
- Swelling, thickening or redness
- Nipple abnormalities
- Spontaneous discharge

Early screening is important.

Breast cancer typically produces no symptoms when the tumor is small and most easily cured.



Risk

While all women are at risk for breast cancer, some may have an elevated risk.

High breast density

50+

Increasing age

BRCA gene mutation

Lifestyle-related factors



Postmenopausal obesity



Postmenopausal hormone therapy



Cigarette smoking



Alcohol consumption

Factors not associated with breast cancer risk:



Abortion



Hair dyes and antiperspirants



Breast implants

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Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC

Breast cancer statistical information provided by The American Cancer Society www.cancer.org