Symptoms of 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.

460,000 women are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer each year.

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

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.
- **Triple Negative Breast Cancer**: Means that the cells in the tumor are negative for progesterone, estrogen, and HER2/neu receptors.
- **Metastatic Breast Cancer**: A cancer that has spread beyond the breast, sometimes into the lungs, bones, or brain.
- **Invasive Ductal Carcinoma**: Means that abnormal cells that originated in the lining of the breast milk duct have invaded surrounding tissue.
- **Inflammatory Breast Cancer**: A cancer that may not develop a tumor and often affects the skin.
- **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.

Stages of Breast Cancer

- **Local Stage**: Refers to cancers that are confined to the breast.
- **Regional Stage**: Refers to tumors that have spread to surrounding tissue or nearby lymph nodes.
- **Distant Stage**: Refers to cancers that have metastasized (spread) to distant organs or lymph nodes above the collarbone.

5-year survival is 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**

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.

Factors not associated with breast cancer risk:

- Cigarette smoking
- Alcohol consumption
- Breast implants

Lifestyle-related factors

- **Postmenopausal obesity**
- **Postmenopausal hormone therapy**
- **Cigarette smoking**
- **Hair dyes and antiperspirants**

Breast cancer statistical information provided by The American Cancer Society

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

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