

What is breast cancer?

- Breast cancer is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form in the tissues of the breast. The damaged cells can invade surrounding tissue, but with early detection and treatment, most people continue a normal life.

What are the symptoms of Breast Cancer?

Early breast cancer usually does not cause pain. In fact, when breast cancer first develops, there may be no symptoms at all. But as the cancer grows, it can cause changes that women should watch for:

- A lump or thickening in or near the breast or in the underarm area.
- A change in the size or shape of a breast.
- Nipple discharge or tenderness, or the nipple pulled back (inverted) into the breast.
- Ridges or pitting of the breast (the skin looks like the skin of an orange).
- A change in the way the skin of the breast, areola, or nipple looks or feels (for example, warm, swollen, red or scaly).
- A woman should see her doctor about any symptoms like these. Most often, they are not cancer, but it's important to check.

Facts about Breast Cancer in the United States

- One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.
- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women.
- Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women.
- Each year it is estimated that over 220,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die.
- Although breast cancer in men is rare, an estimated 2,150 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 410 will die each year.



Breast Cancer Myths:

Myth #1

Finding a lump in your breast means you have breast cancer.

The Truth

Only a small percentage of breast lumps turn out to be cancer. But if you discover a persistent lump in your breast or notice any changes in breast tissue, it should never be ignored. It is very important that you see a physician for a clinical breast exam. He or she may possibly order breast imaging studies to determine if this lump is of concern or not.



Myth #2

Men do not get breast cancer; it affects women only.

The Truth

Quite the contrary, each year it is estimated that approximately 2,190 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 410 will die. While this percentage is still small, men should also check themselves periodically by doing a breast self-exam while in the shower and reporting any changes to their physicians.



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Everything
You Need
To Know About
Breast Cancer

