



What is breast cancer?

Cancer that forms in the milk ducts or lobules (glands that produce breast milk). Cancer that spreads beyond these tissues is called invasive breast cancer.

Is it common?

In 2008, an estimated 182,460 new cases were diagnosed and 40,480 deaths occurred in women in the U.S. (For men in 2008, about 1,990 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed and about 450 men died.)

What causes it?

While the cause of breast cancer is not known, gender (it is 100 times more common in women than men), family history of breast cancer and age (chances increase after age 55) seem to be the highest risk factors.

The facts about breast cancer



What are the symptoms?

The most common sign is a new lump or mass. Other possible signs include swelling, skin irritation or dimpling, breast or nipple pain, discharge other than breast milk, inverted nipple, or redness, scaliness or thickening of the nipple or skin, or lump in the armpit.

How is it detected?

A screening mammogram and a clinical breast exam can detect breast cancer early. However, only a biopsy can confirm the presence of cancer.

How is breast cancer treated?

Surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, brachytherapy and hormone therapy can be used, depending on the type and stage of the cancer.

How can I prevent breast cancer?

There is no known way to prevent breast cancer. However, regular mammogram screenings are the best way to detect breast cancer early, when it's easiest to treat and cure. Ask your health care practitioner for screening advice.



Source: www.cancer.org

For more information about breast cancer, talk to your health care practitioner.



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