



Breast cancer is the most common malignancy in women and the second leading cause of cancer death (exceeded by lung cancer in 1985). Breast cancer is three times more common than all gynecologic malignancies put together. The incidence of breast cancer has been increasing steadily from an incidence of 1:20 in 1960 to 1:7 women today.

The American Cancer Society estimates that 178,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed this year and 40,460 patients will die from the disease. Breast cancer is truly an epidemic among women and we don't know why.

"When breast cancer is found early, the five-year survival rate is 96%." *National Breast Cancer Foundation*

Breast cancer is not exclusively a disease of women. For every 100 women with breast cancer, 1 male will develop the disease. The American Cancer society estimates that 1,600 men will develop the disease this year. The evaluation of men with breast masses is similar to that in women, including mammography.

The incidence of breast cancer is very low in a person's twenties, gradually increases and plateaus at the age of forty-five, and increases dramatically after age fifty. Fifty percent of breast cancer is diagnosed in women over sixty-five, indicating the ongoing necessity of yearly screening throughout a woman's life.

Breast cancer is considered a heterogeneous disease, meaning that it is a different disease in different women, a different disease in different age groups, and has different cell populations within the tumor itself. Generally, breast cancer is a much more aggressive disease in younger women. Autopsy studies show that 2% of the population has undiagnosed breast cancer at the time of death. Older women typically have much less aggressive disease than younger women.

Facts: Every two minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.

One woman in eight who lives to age 85 will develop breast cancer during her lifetime.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in women between the ages of 40 and 55.

Seventy percent of all breast cancers are found through breast self-exams. Not all lumps are detectable by touch. Regular mammograms and monthly breast self-exams are advised.

Eight out of ten breast lumps are not cancerous. If you find a lump, don't panic-call your doctor for an appointment.

Mammography is a low-dose X-ray examination that can detect breast cancer up to two years before it is large enough to be felt.

When breast cancer is found early, the five-year survival rate is 96%. This is good news!

Over 2 million breast cancer survivors are alive in America today.





The following are members who have had a personal experience with breast cancer, either through a family member, friend, or themselves personally.

Marie Bergfeldt--sister Jean Tjornhom in treatment, mother-in-law, Mildred Bergfeldt lost her battle. Ingrid Olson-Feingold, 2 time survivor 10 years. Jessica, cousin-in-law's sister in treatment. Ronnie Q, school friend, lost the battle in her late 30's.

Joan Kaplan--twin sister to Jean Tjornhom in treatment, mother-in-law, Harriet Kaplan, aunt-in-law, 4 year survivor, Carol Kahn less than 1 year survivor. Friend Michele Brown, almost 1 year survivor, friend Jen Rhett, 2 year survivor, friend Cindy Hamlet, 2 year survivor, friend Maureen Goodman, 3 year survivor.

Cynthia McGrane--Audrey Romeo, survivor, 4yrs & counting. Rose Lilly, Aunt survivor more than 15 yrs.

Mary Artache--Debbie Giannone, high school best friend, lost the battle.

Jill O'Connor--sister-in-law, Margie O'Connor, diagnosed April, 2006 - finished treatment, looking great and feeling wonderful. Aunt, Diane Carpenter, diagnosed October-November, 2006 - finished treatment, also looking great and feeling wonderful.

Ed Siclari--sister Joyce D'Angelo is a long time breast cancer survivor 10+ years.

Maureen Puricelli--neighbor who lost her battle last year, she battled for 4 years. My good friend Debbie Thornbury, had it 3 years ago and is in remission!!

Pauletter Hacker--mother, Florence Hacker, lost her battle, friend, Kathy Scully in treatment.

Yvonne Siclari--Harriet Von Walken, lost the battle, Dorothy Hansen (sister) -- 30 years, Glenna Ferguson -- lost the battle

Laurie Burke--Mother-in-law, Marie Giacomini, breast cancer survivor- 2 years.

Alma Meyer--survivor 28 years.

Kathy Hogan--in treatment.