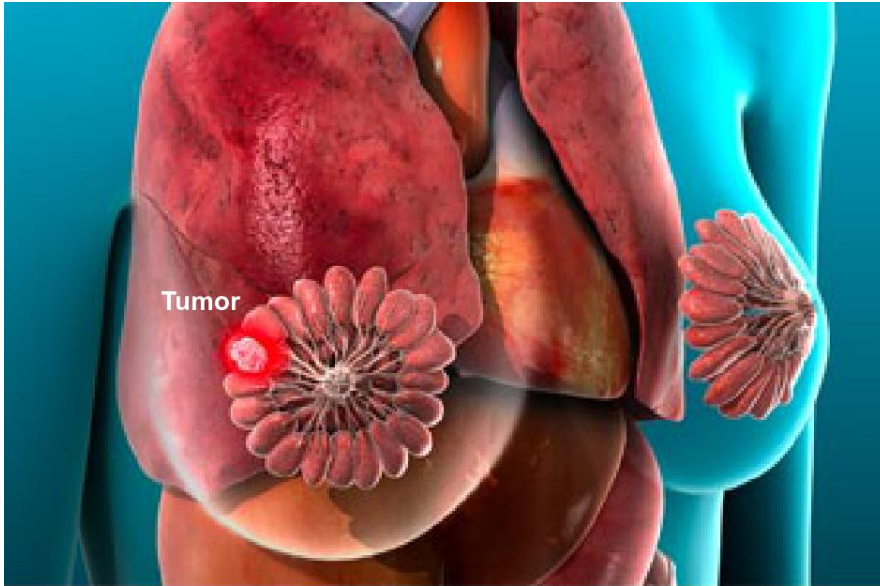




Breast Cancer in Women



Overview

This form of cancer is a growth of abnormal cells in the breast tissue. Let's take a moment to learn more about this common disease.

Causes

First, what causes it? Well, it starts with a mutation in the DNA of a cell in the breast. DNA is the genetic blueprint that tells cells how to grow and function. The mutation makes the cell grow and divide in a way that's not normal. A mass of these cells is called a "tumor." If the cells are the type that could invade other tissues or spread to other parts of the body, we say you have "cancer."

Risk Factors

Certain factors raise your risk for breast cancer. These include things like inheriting specific genes from your parents, getting older, having dense breasts and drinking alcohol. Ask your doctor for a full list.

Symptoms

What are the symptoms of breast cancer? Some women don't have any noticeable symptoms. But if you do, you may feel a lump in your breast or under your arm. Your breast may swell. It may change shape. The skin may be red and flaky. It may be painful. And, fluid may come out of your nipple. This fluid may be clear, green, yellow or bloody.

Treatment

How do we treat it? It depends on your specific cancer and your needs. Your care plan may include options like surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and biological therapy. We want to treat cancer as early as possible. So have regular breast cancer exams. Learn to do self-exams properly. And talk with your doctor about breast cancer screening.