



Breast Cancer Screenings & Treatment

Tests used to screen for breast cancer include:

- Mammograms. An x-ray of the breasts. Screening mammograms are performed on women with no signs or symptoms, starting at age 50, at least every two years. When symptoms are present or an abnormal screening mammogram is returned, a diagnostic mammogram will be performed. (Breast ultrasound or MRIs may be performed on women with dense breasts or a high risk of cancer.)
- Biopsy. If mammograms or other tests find an abnormality, a sample of tissue is removed to determine the presence, cause or extent of the disease.

Treatments used for breast cancer include:

- Surgery is the most common treatment. Depending on size, location, tumor stage and more, as well as a woman's feeling about treatment, surgical options include:
 - Breast Conserving Surgery. Also called partial mastectomy, quadrantectomy and lumpectomy.
 - Simple/Total Mastectomy. Removal of entire breast.
 - Modified Radical Mastectomy. Removal of entire breast and lymph nodes under the arm.
 - Radical Mastectomy. Removal of entire breast, lymph nodes under arm and underlying chest wall muscle.
- Radiation. Uses beams of intense energy to kill cancer cells. There are two main types:
 - External Radiation Therapy. Most common and is usually administered once a day, five (5) days a week for three (3) to six (6) weeks for a few minutes at a time.

- Brachytherapy. A tube is inserted directly in or near the tumor site and a radioactive substance loaded, then removed and repeated every day for a week.
- Systemic Treatments. Chemotherapy, hormone therapy and targeted therapies are administered intravenously or by pill and affect all parts of the body, not just cancer cells.
 - Chemotherapy. Intravenous drugs or pills that are usually administered for three (3) to six (6) months.
 - Hormone Therapy. Used to treat breast cancers that have hormone receptors. The type used will depend on menopause status.
 - Targeted Therapies. When a breast cancer is shown to have too much of the HER2 protein, a targeted therapy may be used to block the action of the protein and slow cancer cell growth.