



Carcinogenic Effects of Breast Cancer

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DESCRIPTION

Breast cancer refers to a group of breast tumour subtypes with different genetic and cellular origins and clinical characteristics. The majority of these are ductal or lobular epithelial tumours. Breast cancer is the most common life-threatening malignancy in women and the main cause of cancer death in women worldwide.

Identify distinct skin abnormalities that are cause for concern with Cutaneous Clues to Diagnosing Metastatic Cancer, a Critical Images presentation.

Breast lumps in young women: Diagnostic approaches is a slideshow to help young women deal with palpable breast lumps.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Early breast cancers are often asymptomatic, with no signs or symptoms of pain or discomfort.

If a lump is discovered, the following may indicate the possible presence of breast cancer:

- Change in breast size or shape
- Skin dimpling or skin changes
- Recent nipple inversion or skin change, or nipple abnormalities
- Single-duct discharge, particularly if blood-stained
- Axillary lump

Diagnosis of breast cancer

Breast cancer is frequently discovered as an anomaly on a mammogram before the patient or health care practitioner feels it.

Evaluation of breast cancer includes the following:

- Clinical examination
- Imaging
- Needle biopsy
- Physical examination

The following physical findings should raise concern:

- Lump or contour change
- Skin tethering

- Nipple inversion
- Dilated veins
- Ulceration
- Paget disease
- Edema

If a palpable lump is found and possesses any of the following features, breast cancer may be present:

- Hardness
- Irregularity
- Focal nodularity
- Fixation to skin or muscle
- Screening

Early detection remains the primary defense in preventing breast cancer.

Screening modalities include the following:

- Breast self-examination
- Clinical breast examination
- Mammography
- Ultrasonography
- Magnetic resonance imaging

For invasive cancer in non-fatty breasts, ultrasonography and MRI are more sensitive than mammography. The combination of mammography, clinical examination, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is more sensitive than any other single test or combination of tests.

For newly diagnosed breast cancers, core biopsy with imaging guidance is the recommended diagnostic technique. This is a non-surgical way for obtaining breast tissue that potentially obviates the need for future procedures. The entire lump is surgically removed in an open excisional biopsy.

Management of breast cancer

The basic treatments are surgery and radiation therapy, with adjuvant

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hormone or chemotherapy if needed. A lumpectomy or a complete mastectomy may be used as surgical treatment. Following surgery, radiation therapy may be used to eliminate any remaining disease while lowering the risk of recurrence.

There are 2 general approaches for delivering radiation therapy:

- External-beam radiotherapy (EBRT)

- Partial-breast irradiation (PBI)

The conventional treatment for ductal carcinoma in situ is surgical excision with or without radiation.