



Breast Cancer

Definition

Breast cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the breast. It can start in one or both breasts. The breast is an organ that sits on top of the upper ribs and chest muscles. Each breast has mainly glands, ducts, and fatty tissue. The amount of fatty tissue determines the size of each breast. Breast cancer can occur in both men and women.

Symptoms

- A breast lump or thickening that feels different from the surrounding tissue
- Change in size, shape, or appearance of a breast
- Changes to the skin over the breast, such as dimpling
- A newly inverted nipple
- Peeling, scaling, crusting, or flaking of the pigmented area of skin surround the nipple (areola) or breast skin
- Redness or pitting over the skin over the breast, like the skin of an orange



Complications

- Destruction of the breast
- Destruction of the chest wall surrounding the breast
- Mastitis
- Nipple discharge
- Chest pain
- Tumor invades lymphatic channels, causing skin edema, and orange peel appearance of the skin
- Invasion of the lymphatic channels carries the tumor cells to other nodes, including those in axillary nodes
- The tumor replaced the skin itself, ulcerating overlying skin
- Metastases result from seeding of cancer cells into the blood and lymph system

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/breast-cancer/symptoms-causes/syc-20352470> 7.11.23



Horizon Health, Inc. **Home Care and Hospice Services**

Specific to Breast Cancer Care

- Medical care to alleviate symptoms and pain (including medications and medical equipment).
- Consoling about the emotional and spiritual impact of the end-of-life journey.
- Respite care to allow caregivers relief.
- Massage therapy to promote relaxation.
- Bereavement for family.
- Skilled nursing services.
- Licensed Social Worker.
- Clergy.

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