

Breast Cancer & Treatment: What Women Need to Know

Why Breast Cancer Disparities Matter

Breast cancer is the most common cancer found in women and the second largest cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. It impacts people from all walks of life. But not everyone has the same access to the care they need. And they need to.



The Danger in Disparities

Disparities in screening and treatment can lead to later diagnoses and worse outcomes for Black, Hispanic, American Indian, and Alaska Native individuals. People with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ+ community may also have worse outcomes because of stigma or social factors like poor access to care.

Screening: Medically underserved groups face significant barriers in accessing screening mammography services, leading to later-stage diagnoses and worse outcomes.

Treatment: There are effective treatments available, including surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, and targeted therapies. Early detection significantly improves treatment outcomes.

Outcomes: Black women are 40% more likely to die from breast cancer than White women, despite having lower incidence rates. Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, and Alaska Native women also face delays in diagnosis and treatment.

Clinical Trial Participation: Fewer minority women take part in clinical trials, limiting their access to the latest medical advances. Underrepresentation in clinical trials also makes it harder to know if new treatments will work well for everyone.

Biomarker testing can offer treatment options

Biomarker testing can identify specific characteristics of cancer. Gathering this previously unseen information about your breast cancer unlocks personalized treatment that is more effective and has fewer side effects.

Here are a few things you can do:

Insist on Screening: Regular mammograms can detect breast cancer early, when it is most treatable. Ensure you follow recommended screening guidelines – and encourage others to do the same.

Talk to Your Healthcare Provider: Keep the line of communication open; ask about advancements in breast cancer screening and treatments.

Ask about Cancer Clinical Trials: You may qualify for a clinical trial, which could give you access to the latest treatments.



To learn more, go to
hoparx.org/clinical-trials

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