Breast cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States, after lung cancer. In 2021, it is estimated that 43,600 women and 530 men will die of breast cancer. (ACS, 2021)

Progress in breast cancer mortality reduction has slowed in recent years. The mortality rate was decreasing by about 1.9% annually between 1998 and 2013. Annual declines have slowed to 1.0% between 2013 and 2018. (ACS, 2021)

While the breast cancer mortality rate has declined, the number of women and men who die each year is rising and will continue to rise as the aging population grows.

Mortality By Age
From 2014-2018, the median age at death from breast cancer was 69 years of age. (NCI, 2021)

Every 13 minutes, a woman dies from breast cancer.

JANUARY 2021
The diagnosis of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) was rare before 1980. Widespread adoption of screening mammography has led to an 800% increase in the incidence of DCIS. However, screening has not resulted in a decrease in the rate of lethal disease (i.e., stage IV, metastatic disease) at diagnosis.

Overdiagnosis of breast cancer (i.e., cancer that would never become a problem) is estimated to occur in 22-31% of all screen-detected breast cancers. (Bleyer and Welch, 2012)

The current methods of treatment in use in the U.S. are:

- Surgery (Mastectomy)
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation
- Hormonal Therapy
- Targeted

Factors that increase a woman’s risk of breast cancer include:

- Getting older
- Genetic mutations
- Long menstrual history
- Having dense breasts
- Personal history of breast cancer or certain non-cancerous breast diseases
- Family history of breast or ovarian cancer
- Previous treatment using radiation therapy
- Never having children
- Being over 30 years at first full-term pregnancy
- Recent use of hormonal contraceptives or high natural levels of sex hormones
- Use of combined post-menopausal hormone replacement therapy
- Being overweight or obese after menopause
- Not being physically active
- Drinking alcohol

(ACS, 2020, CDC, 2019)

Recurrence

An estimated 20% to 30% of women diagnosed, treated, and declared free of disease for local or regional invasive breast cancer will have a recurrence. (Saphner et al., 1996; Harris et al., 2000; Colleoni et al., 2016)

Prevalence

As of 2019, there were an estimated 3.8 million individuals living with a history of breast cancer in the United States. (DeSantis et al., 2019)

The number of women living with metastatic breast cancer in the United States:
In 2017–155,000
By 2020–168,292
(Mariotto et al., 2017)

Risk Factors

All women are at risk for breast cancer. Only 5-10% of women (5-20% of males) with breast cancer have inherited a mutation in a known breast cancer gene (e.g., BRCA1 and BRCA2). The majority of breast cancer cases do not involve these inherited mutations. (ACS, 2017-2018)

DCIS and Screening

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