

BREAST CANCER FACTS SHEET

1.) You can only get breast cancer if it runs in your family.

FALSE. Knowing your family history is important, but anyone can get breast cancer.

2.) Men can also get breast cancer.

TRUE. Over 2,000 men are diagnosed with breast cancer annually.

3.) You can't get breast cancer if you're under 40 years old.

FALSE. Approximately 5% of women are diagnosed under the age of 40.

4.) All breast tumors are lethal.

FALSE. When detected early, most breast cancers are treatable. The 5 year survival rate of women diagnosed with stage 0 or stage 1 breast cancer is close to 100%.

5.) There are different types of breast cancer.

TRUE. Not all types of breast cancer are the same and they are not all treated the same.

6.) Mammography detects 100% of breast cancers.

FALSE. Mammograms are the best way to detect breast cancer in most women, but it may miss some breast cancers, especially in women with dense breasts. Ultrasound is often used in combination with mammography when dense breast tissue is detected to allow for more comprehensive screening.

7.) Older women are much more likely to get cancer than younger women.

TRUE. Women age 50 and over comprise 80% of diagnoses annually.

8.) Everyone has the BRCA gene

TRUE. Everyone has the BRCA gene. This gene protects against the development of breast cancer. Some people have a mutation in the BRCA gene, which increases the risk of developing breast cancer 7-8 times in women and 80 times in men. The risk is especially increased if exposed to carcinogens such as tobacco and environmental toxins.

9.) How many women, on average, are diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime?

1 IN 8. 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed in their lifetime. Help us to raise awareness and raise money for the research needed to decrease these odds!



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10.) Which of the following increases your breast cancer risk?

ALCOHOL. Alcohol consumption increases risk for breast cancer and all cancers, particularly when consumed at younger ages. Electromagnetic fields and breast implants have not been proven to increase cancer risk.

11.) Which of the following increases your breast cancer risk?

FAMILY HISTORY. A family history could mean you are at higher risk. The risk of developing breast cancer is two times higher for one first degree family relative, nearly three times higher with two or more relatives, and nearly four times higher for women with three or more relatives. Know and share your family history with your doctor.

12.) Which of the following can help decrease your risk of breast cancer?

REGULAR EXERCISE. Exercising regularly and maintaining a healthy weight can decrease your risk of breast cancer. 5 hours or more per week of vigorous physical activity has been shown to decrease breast cancer risk

13.) Which of the following can help decrease your risk of breast cancer?

A HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS DIET. Maintaining a healthy weight and consuming a nutrition-filled diet (5-9 servings of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean meats and healthy fats such as olive oil) can decrease breast cancer risk.

14.) Stage 0 breast cancer is...

ATYPICAL CELLS THAT ARE STILL WITHIN THE DUCT AND HAVE NOT INVADED DEEPER INTO THE SURROUNDING BREAST TISSUE. Also known as DCIS, Stage 0 is nearly 100% curable.

15.) Stage 4 breast cancer is...

ADVANCED BREAST CANCER THAT HAS SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY, SUCH AS THE LUNGS, LIVER, BRAIN, OR BONES. Also known as metastatic cancer, Stage 4 is incurable.

THE PINK AGENDA'S RESEARCH GRANTEES



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The Pink Agenda raises money in support of breast cancer research. Learn more about our grantees & the research they are working on at

www.thepinkagenda.org

