

BREAST biopsy?

You're not alone.



FACTS ABOUT BREAST CANCER IN THE UNITED STATES

Unless noted, the following statistics were obtained from the American Cancer Society.

Incidence

- 1 out of every 8 women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime.
- Breast cancer accounts for more than 30% of all cancers detected in women.
- As many as one million women a year undergo a breast biopsy. Harper's Bazaar (Medical Tribune)
- About 180,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer annually. #About 1 every 3 minutes.
- Breast cancer claims the lives of about 46,000 women a year - only lung cancer causes more cancer deaths among women.
- Approximately 80% of biopsies are non-cancerous - National Cancer Institute.

Prevention

- Women over the age of 20 should examine their breasts once a month.
- Women ages 20-40 should have a breast exam performed by a physician every 3 years.
- Women over age 40 should have their breasts checked annually.
- A mammogram should be performed every 1-2 years on women ages 40-49 - annually on women 50+.
- 10-15% of cancers that can be felt do not show up on a mammogram.

Risk Factors for Women

Nobody is "risk free" - 75% of all breast cancer cases are diagnosed in women with no known risk factors. High risk factors include:

- Being age 50 and over
- A personal or family history of breast cancer
- Never having children
- First childbirth after age 30

Prognosis

- More than 90% of women whose breast cancer is found and treated early with no spreading beyond the breast, will survive -Arizona Cancer Center.
- 5-year survival rates for cancer contained at the breast has increased from 78% in the 1940s to 92% today.