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Facts About Breast Cancer

- More than 215,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year.
(Source: American Cancer Society)
- Chances of being diagnosed with breast cancer if you're a woman:
 - by age 25 1 in 19,608
 - by age 35 1 in 622
 - by age 45 1 in 93
 - by age 55 1 in 33
 - by age 65 1 in 17
 - by age 75 1 in 11
 - Ever 1 out of 8(Source: National Cancer Institute)
- Breast cancer is the second most common form of cancer after skin cancer.
- Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women
- Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women, second only to lung cancer
- It is the leading cause of death in women in their 40s.
- 70 percent of breast cancer cases occur in women who have no identifiable risk factors.
- Cancer is the second-leading cause of death in N.J., with more than 6,500 incidences of breast cancer among women. (Source: American Cancer Society)
- Only 20 percent of Medicare patients comply with mammography screening guidelines in N.J.

More...

- Every woman is at risk for developing breast cancer. This risk increases as a woman ages, rising sharply after the age of 40. Family history of breast cancer increases this risk further.
- 77 percent of all breast cancer cases occur in women over 50 years of age. (Source: American Cancer Society)
- 30 percent of all women over the age of fifty are NOT getting regular mammograms. (Source: American Cancer Society)
- A Harvard study revealed that over a 10-year period only 50 percent of age-eligible women have annual mammograms.

Mammography Facts

- There are two kinds of mammography: screening and diagnostic.
 - Screening mammography finds abnormalities;
 - Diagnostic mammography determines if the abnormality is malignant(cancerous).
- More than 1,000,000 mammograms are performed every year in the U.S.
- A high quality mammogram is the most effective way to detect breast cancer as early as possible. (Source: "Time", Feb. 18, 2002)
- 80 percent of the earliest form of breast cancer (DCIS or ductal carcinoma in situ) is detected by mammography. (Source: NCI website)
- Studies have shown that women whose breast cancers are detected by mammography as compared to physical examination of the breast have 30 percent less chance of dying of the disease. (Source: ABC News, Mar. 9, 2001)
- Regular mammograms reduce the chances of women in their 40's dying from cancer by 16 percent; women ages 50 to 69 by 25 to 30 percent. (Source: NCI website)
- Mammograms can detect tiny lesions the size of a grain of rice while hand examination cannot detect lesions until they are 2.5cm (about 1") in size. (Source: Dept. of Defense Breast Cancer Decision Guide - online)
- Nationwide, women wait up to 5 months to get a routine screening mammogram and up to 3 months for a diagnostic mammogram after an abnormality has been discovered. (ABC News, August, 2001)

- Leading cancer organizations and advocacy groups, including the American Cancer Society, The National Cancer Institute and the Susan G. Komen Foundation recommend all women age 40+ get a mammogram every year.

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