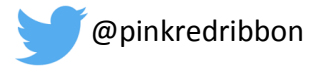




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A Global Partnership Fighting Women's Cancers

FACT SHEET: BREAST CANCER IN LOW-RESOURCE SETTINGS

www.pinkribbonredribbon.org



Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is a type of cancer characterized by abnormal, out-of-control growth of breast cells and the formation of a tumor.¹ Tumors are considered malignant if the cells invade surrounding tissue or metastasize to other areas of the body.

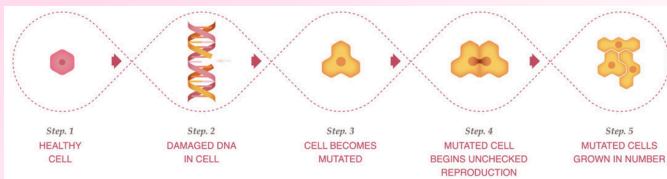


Image Source: National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women worldwide. In low-resource settings (LRS), the number of new breast cancer cases and age-specific incidence rates are rising over time, representing the increasingly heavy dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases facing these regions.

1.78M | 464,000
NEW CASES | DEATHS
EACH YEAR

Risk Factors & Prevention

Risk of breast cancer increases with age; invasive breast cancers are predominately found in women aged 55 and older. African women, however, on average tend to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a younger age (<50), suggesting potentially unique genetic or environmental risk factors.

Reproductive and hormonal factors associated with increased risk include early menarche, late menopause, late age at first birth, and low parity, while breastfeeding has been shown to be protective.

Between 5 and 10 percent of breast cancers arise from inherited genetic mutations (i.e. BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations). 8 of 10 women with breast cancer have no family history; however, having a first-degree relative with breast cancer nearly doubles the risk, and having 2 first-degree relatives with breast cancer triples the risk of breast cancer.

Lifestyle-related risk factors including diet, lack of exercise, alcohol consumption, and high body mass index, among others, can be reduced through health promotion and behavioral change.

Diagnosis and Treatment

According to the WHO, early detection should be prioritized for breast cancer control, and where available in LRS, basic surgery, inexpensive generic drugs and radiation therapy are the cornerstones of treatment.

Screening tools commonly used in LRS, where mammography is neither cost-effective nor feasible, include clinical breast examinations and breast ultrasound technology. Needle and surgical biopsies are used to remove tissue from a suspicious area of the breast in order to establish whether cancer is present.

Treatment options in LRS can be extremely limited. Surgery is the most widely available treatment modality, and mastectomy is the most common surgical treatment option for breast cancer.

BREAST CANCER IS THE
LEADING CAUSE OF
CANCER DEATH
AMONG WOMEN IN
LOW-RESOURCE SETTINGS

Burden of Disease & Mortality

In 2013 alone there were an estimated 1.78 million new breast cancer cases and nearly half a million deaths worldwide.

Over 60% of breast cancer deaths occurred in low-resource settings, where case fatality ratios are significantly higher than in high-resource settings.

Mortality rates are increasing in some low- and middle-income countries, paralleling rising incidence rates, and reflecting the high proportion of late-stage diagnoses and limited access to treatment.

BREAST CANCERS
MAKE UP
1 IN 4
DIAGNOSED
CANCERS
AMONG WOMEN

Estimated Worldwide Incidence, Mortality & Prevalence (2012)

Estimates	Cases	Deaths	5-Year Prevalence
World	1,671,000	522,000	6,232,000
Less developed regions	883,000	324,000	3,032,000
WHO Africa Region	100,000	49,000	318,000

Adapted from the International Agency for Research on Cancer GLOBOCAN (2012)

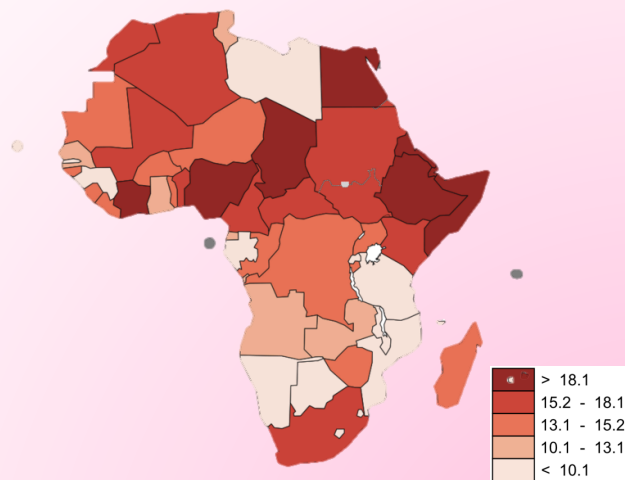
Breast Cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa

Breast cancer is a leading cause of cancer death in Sub-Saharan Africa, second only to cervical cancer, and is a growing health problem in the region.

IN 2012 THERE WERE OVER
94,000 CASES
AND NEARLY
48,000 DEATHS
DUE TO BREAST CANCER IN
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

MANY BREAST CANCERS IN
SUB-SAHARAH AFRICA
ARE NOT DETECTED UNTIL THEY ARE
ADVANCED STAGE

Estimated Age-Standardized Mortality Rates (per 100,000)



Data Source: GLOBOCAN 2012
Map Production: IARC WHO



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Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon® is a global organization powered by partners that works to save lives from cancer in countries where the need is greatest. Through greater access to prevention and treatment, healthy women strengthen families, communities and nations, driving global economic growth and prosperity. **To learn more, visit: pinkribbonredribbon.org**