

Cancer Research Saves Lives!



The increased number of women who have survived breast cancer since the 1970s has been attributed to early detection and cancer treatment.



YESTERDAY

- In 1975 in the United States there were 105 new cases of breast cancer per 100,000 women.
- In 1975 there were 31 breast cancer related deaths for every 100,000 women.
- Of women diagnosed with breast cancer between 1975 and 1977, about 75% survived their disease at least 5 years.
- The mastectomy was once the only accepted surgical option for the treatment of cancer breast.
- In 1975, only one randomized trial of mammography for breast cancer screening had been completed.
- Clinical investigation of combination chemotherapy using multiple drugs and hormone therapy as a treatment after surgery (adjuvant) for breast cancer was in its early stages.
- In the mid 70's, the clinical evaluation of Tamoxifen, a hormonal treatment for breast cancer, was just beginning.
- No gene associated with an increased risk of breast cancer had yet been identified.

TODAY

- In 2007, the latest year for which we have updated statistics, the U.S. incidence rate for female breast cancer was approximately 125 new cases diagnosed for every 100,000 women.
- The breast cancer death rate in 1975 was 23 deaths per 100,000 women.
- Of women diagnosed with breast cancer between 1999 and 2006, it was expected that 90% survived their disease at least 5 years.
- Lumpectomy (surgery that removes the cancer but not the whole breast) with radiation therapy has replaced mastectomy as the preferred treatment for breast cancer treatment.
- The most acceptable method for the prevention and early detection of breast cancer is routine mammographic screening.
- Chemotherapy is a standard of care in the adjuvant treatment of operable breast cancer. The results of several clinical studies show that mammograms can reduce breast cancer mortality.
- Several susceptibility genes have been identified, including BRCA1, BRCA2, TP53, and PTEN/

National Cancer Institute. (September 23, 2010). Cancer Advances in Focus: Breast Cancer. Retrieved from <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/cancer-advances-in-focus/breast>