



<http://www.womenshealth.gov>

1-800-994-9662

TDD: 1-888-220-5446

Breast Cancer

Q: What is breast cancer?

A: Cancer is a disease in which cells become abnormal and form more cells in an uncontrolled way. With breast cancer, the cancer begins in cells that make up the breasts — usually in the tubes that carry milk to the nipple or the glands that make milk. The cancerous cells form a mass of tissue called a tumor. Sometimes, the cancer spreads to other parts of the body.

Q: Why should I be concerned about breast cancer?

A: Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women. It also is the second-leading cancer killer of women, after lung cancer. Every woman has a chance of getting breast cancer. About 1 in 8 women will find out she has breast cancer at some point in her life. This might sound scary. But today, most women with breast cancer survive it. With breast cancer screening, including mammograms, doctors often can find cancer early. Treatment is more likely to work well when cancer is found early. ■

For more information

For more information about breast cancer, call [womenshealth.gov](http://www.womenshealth.gov) at 800-994-9662 or contact the following organizations:

**National Cancer Institute
Cancer Information Service**
Phone number: 800-422-6237
Internet address: <http://cis.nci.nih.gov>

Susan G. Komen for the Cure
Phone number: 877-465-6636
Internet address: <http://www.komen.org>

**National Breast and Cervical Cancer
Early Detection Program**
Phone number: 800-232-4636
Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp>

Breast Cancer Network of Strength
Phone number: 800-221-2141
Internet address: <http://www.networkofstrength.org>

American Cancer Society
Phone number: 800-227-2345
Internet address: <http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/cis>

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