INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

WHAT IS INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) is a very rare and very aggressive disease in which cancer cells block lymph vessels in the skin of the breast. This type of breast cancer is called “inflammatory” because the breast often looks swollen and red, or “inflamed.”

DIAGNOSING INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

There is not a way to know you have IBC until the outward physical signs are presented. While cancer prevention may never be 100 percent effective, many things (such as quitting smoking and eating healthy foods) can greatly reduce a person’s risk for developing cancer. This lack of early detection can cause great emotional stress, so it is important that if you are diagnosed with IBC to understand the late stage diagnosis was not your fault.

SYMPTOMS INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

Breast Swelling

- Bulging or shooting pain
- Flattened or discolored nipple
- Swelling in one area or only on one side of each

- Breast area to handle appears infiltrated
- Ridges or thickening of the skin

Breast Swelling is a presentation of IBC as it’s hallmark feature. Other common sites are brain, lung, liver, skin and distant lymph nodes. It is a common concern for patients who are surviving IBC. Making way for the treatment is often a concern. It may affect sleep, affect energy, make the person deal with physical and emotional stress.

CHEMOTHERAPY

SURGERY/LYMPH NODE RADIATION

INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER TREATMENT


treatment consists of 3 modalities: chemotherapy, surgery and radiation.

What is tri-modal treatment and why is it important in IBC?

To where can IBC metastasize?

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TREATMENT

STATISTICS INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

Most prevalent in obese women.

More common in African American women with an average age of 54.

IBC accounts for 1-5% of all breast cancer diagnosed.

 survival rates after 5-Y are 11%-49%.

1-5% (IBC) accounts for 1-5% of all breast cancer diagnosed.

The unfortunate truth is that of IBC patients who complete chemotherapy, surgery and radiation, 60% will experience a recurrence within the first 5 years. Proper follow up care is as important as the treatment and it is common to have an IBC diagnosis for many years. If you do not have a diagnosis for your breast cancer, please contact the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. at 800-SUPPORT and make an appointment with a breast cancer specialist.

SIDE EFFECTS FROM TREATMENT

There are a number of long term side effects that may continue for months or even years after treatment. There are many things (such as quitting smoking and eating healthy foods) can greatly reduce a person’s risk for developing cancer. This lack of early detection can cause great emotional stress, so it is important that if you are diagnosed with IBC to understand the late stage diagnosis was not your fault.

For more information on Inflammatory Breast Cancer visit www.theibcnetwork.org