INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER – OVERVIEW

Symptoms and Diagnosis

IBC presents differently from other breast cancers. A lump is not necessary although some patients have a lump along with classic skin changes.

Symptoms of IBC may include:
- Skin redness (due to dermal lymphatics blocked with IBC cells)
- Breast swelling
- Breast pain
- Itching
- Nipple retraction
- Peau d’orange

IBC presents quickly – duration of symptoms = less than 6 months (to distinguish from T4b LABC)

Treatment

IBC requires tri-modal treatment as depicted in the flow chart below, ideally by a multi-disciplinary team who evaluate the patient upfront and throughout treatment.

For more information

- Yamauchi et al. “Inflammatory Breast Cancer: What We Know and What We Need to Learn” The Oncologist 2012; 17:891-899
- Contact the IBC Network Foundation: terry@theibcnetwork.org; website: www.ibcnetwork.org