

Who We Are

The Inflammatory Breast Cancer Foundation is comprised of a group of concerned citizens who came together with the hope of making a difference in the way Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) is perceived by both the general public and the medical community.

Our mission is to change the perceived notion that all breast cancers begin with a lump. The medical community has not been educated to a degree where they can catch this deadly form of breast cancer earlier than stage IIIB. This is not acceptable!

We are conducting a national canvas of medical continuing education seminars, radio shows, television, in person interviews to reach as many people as possible to spread the word there is more than one type of breast cancer, and that IBC can be deadly if not diagnosed properly. Countless women are fighting their own health care physicians to get a proper diagnosis, which has to stop. Through education and awareness, this can change.

Among our supporters are men and women who have lost wives, sisters, mothers and daughters to IBC, and survivors who know only too well how badly education is needed. We all know that common breast cancer has been intensely researched, and many good things have come from what other grass roots organizations have done. We now need to educate in every medium that there is another form of breast cancer; a form we have not been told about; a deadly form with atypical signs and symptoms...and we will.



The **FIRST STEP**
To **Early Detection**
Is **Raising**
Awareness

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Cancer Foundation**
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**INFLAMMATORY
BREAST
CANCER**
FOUNDATION

**Education
Is Power!**

There **IS** more than
one type
of breast cancer

**Be Aware
Know the Signs**

**The Inflammatory Breast
Cancer Foundation**
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What is Inflammatory Breast Cancer?

Inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) is the most aggressive (fast-growing) and deadly form of breast cancer. Because of its aggressive nature and the difficulty in diagnoses, it can be easily misdiagnosed or treated incorrectly, compared to more common breast cancers. The disease is typically treated using a combination of therapies which include chemotherapy, surgery and radiation treatment.

Symptoms of IBC include:

- Increase in breast size
- Redness, rash or blotchiness on the breast
- Consistent pain and/or soreness of the breast
- Lump, or thickening or dimpling of the skin of the breast
- Warmth or tenderness of the breast
- Lymph node swelling under the arm or above the collarbone
- Flattening of the nipple or discharge from the nipple

Why is IBC so different?

Inflammatory breast cancer cells block the lymph vessels in the skin of the breast, and as a result, the breast looks inflamed (hence the diseases' name). It grows in nests or sheets, rather than as a confined solid tumor, which is why mammograms solely are not normally reliable for finding this type of breast cancer.

Diagnosis of IBC is based primarily on the results of a doctor's clinical examination. Biopsy, mammogram, and breast ultrasound are used to confirm the diagnosis.

WHEN IN DOUBT RULE IT OUT...!

You don't need to have a lump to have breast cancer

Symptoms develop suddenly, sometimes overnight. Many women have reported waking up in the morning to one breast swollen, with no memory of injury or stress which could have caused the swelling.

The breast may itch and be painful (it is an old wives tale that breast cancer does not hurt, IBC can and does in most instances).

The skin may be ridged or pitted, described as 'peau d'orange' (resembling the skin of an orange). There may be some thickening of the breast tissue, but a lump is not the most common symptom.

These symptoms can also occur with benign breast disorders. For example, IBC is often misdiagnosed as mastitis, which is normally treated with a course of antibiotics.

If there is no response to the antibiotics within 5 days, you should immediately demand that IBC be ruled out.

*Statistical Sources:

M.D. Anderson Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Program and Clinic; National Cancer Institute

**Learning the Basics of IBC
Could save your life**

Inflammatory breast cancer accounts for 5% or more of all breast cancer cases in the United States, (these numbers vary depending on their source) It tends to be diagnosed in younger women compared to non-IBC breast cancer. The median age range of IBC patients is between 45 and 55 years old, but may be either younger or older.

IBC lies in sheets (or nests), not the usual lump women are told to look for, thus rarely seen on routine mammograms.

IBC occurs more frequently and at a younger age in African Americans.

Like other types of breast cancer, IBC can occur in men.

The 5-year median survival rate is approximately 40%, mainly from misdiagnosis, from the medical communities lack of expertise in treating IBC, and its resistance to treatment with standard chemotherapy drugs.

Treatment starts with chemotherapy which usually continues until there is sufficient clinical response to permit surgery. Radiation and possibly more chemotherapy follow. In some cases hormonal treatment is used. Individual treatment can vary depending on specific circumstances. It is important to find a physician familiar with IBC to receive the best possible treatment.