

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women and the second most common cause of cancer death in women of all ethnic origins. At present rates, 1 in 8 American women will get breast cancer, and 1 in 35 will die of it.

Breast cancer is not just one disease. Scientists believe breast cancer may contain as many as 40 subtypes, each with its own fingerprint that may reveal exactly what genetic mutations, receptors, signaling pathways or other cellular processes may be at play in their formation.



There is no magic bullet in treating breast cancer. The future lies with tests and treatments that are based on individual tumor types. Therapies will target and attack the cancer cells and nothing else. Tomorrow's cancer treatments will hone in on the genetic mutations or mistakes in cancer cells, fix them or render them irrelevant.

With a better understanding of cancer biology, early and precise diagnosis can occur so that treatment begins before cancer cells have spread.



Creating Hope Through Science

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awareness

breast cancer

AMC Cancer Fund is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the University of Colorado Cancer Center to support its outstanding programs in cancer prevention, care, education, research and service to the nation.

Visit www.amc.org and learn more about the different ways to support AMC Cancer Fund.

- Make a Donation
- Sponsor one of our annual events
- Participate in or implement a workplace giving program
- Become a volunteer

Information for this brochure provided by the University of Colorado Cancer Center, University of Colorado Hospital and University of Colorado Foundation.



Creating Hope Through Science

celebrate

survival!

Prevention

By understanding the genetic and environmental risk factors, such as pregnancy, age, diet and exercise, proactive and personalized measures can be taken to prevent breast cancer.

Early Detection

Screening of breast cancer is more effective than ever, enabling earlier and more accurate diagnosis.

You can play an active part in detecting breast cancer early by:

- Visiting your doctor yearly for a breast check
- Doing monthly personal breast self-exams
- Leading a healthy, balanced life of diet and exercise
- Talking to your doctor about when to begin and continue yearly mammograms

Treatment

Today women who develop breast cancer have more and better treatment options thanks to better understanding of cancer biology and targeted treatments. Each breast cancer subtype has its own fingerprint that can guide doctors to the most effective therapy for the patient's particular tumor cells without harming healthy cells.

Treatments can include drugs, radiation and surgical treatments that halt cancer's spread. In addition, with the guidance of caregivers, many patients combine traditional treatments with supplements, herbal remedies, acupuncture and other alternative approaches to ease treatment side effects.

AMC Cancer Fund supports the physicians and researchers at the University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC) who are leaders in the tremendous surge in research that is contributing new knowledge about diagnosis, treatment and prevention of breast cancer in women of all ages.

UCCC is one of 40 comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute, and the only one in the Rocky Mountain region. To earn this distinction, UCCC must demonstrate equal strength in research, patient care and education through a competitive grant process.



Translational and Collaborative Approach to Care

Cancer patients of the University of Colorado Cancer Center are treated with multidisciplinary teams of experts that include oncologists, pathologists, geneticists, surgeons, radiation therapists, counselors and nurse navigators.

Clinicians and researchers work together to ensure that the science discovered in the lab is quickly and efficiently translated to new treatments for patients. This collaboration is vitally important to advancing not only the discoveries of the causes of cancer from a biological level, but the most effective way to treat cancer in humans.

your support helps...

- researchers and physicians working together to define the specific characteristics of pregnancy-related breast cancer, a typically and tragically aggressive form of cancer, and the appropriate treatment of the disease.
- prevention research identifying the risk factors related to lifestyle. Nutrition and exercise are major factors in the development of breast cancer, and UCCC is conducting studies to understand fat metabolism and energy use in relation to risk and occurrence.
- an outstanding team of medical oncologists, endocrinologists and pathologists who are collaborating in a world-class developmental therapeutics program. Efforts are underway to identify the pathways causing drug resistance in some patients and to decrease unwanted effects of treatment.
- educating the next generation of cancer scientists. Professionals educated at UCCC are regarded as some of the best in the world. Supporting young breast cancer specialists as they begin their careers ensures that new and creative research will take place on the foundation of discoveries before them.

Since 1990, the incidence of breast cancer has been relatively constant, but the survival rate has increased 30%