The breast-case scenario

Doctors have new weapons in the fight against a deadly cancer

The specialists: Dr. Elisa Port and Dr. George Raptis on breast cancer

Dr. George Raptis, an oncologist and surgical oncologist, and Dr. Elisa Port, a breast surgeon and associate professor of surgery, discuss new treatments against breast cancer.

By the numbers

1 in 8

Women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society.

207,000

New breast cancer cases are expected this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

59,810

Estimated breast cancer deaths this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

The average American woman has a 12.5% chance of developing breast cancer in her lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society. The most common type of breast cancer was diagnosed in 2010 among that same woman, and breast cancer is the most lethal type of cancer for women.

Who’s at risk

Research shows that family history, age, race, weight, hormones, genetics, and BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations are some of the risk factors. Consider the following:

- Family history: If a first-degree relative (mother, sister, or daughter) has had breast cancer, a woman’s risk of developing breast cancer is doubled.
- Age: Women over 50 are at higher risk for breast cancer.
- Race: African-American women have a higher risk of breast cancer than white women.
- Weight: Women who are overweight or obese have a higher risk of breast cancer.
- Hormones: Women who start menstruating early or who start menopause late are at higher risk.
- Genetics: Women with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation have a higher risk of breast cancer.

Signs and symptoms

Early detection is key to a successful outcome. Symptoms may include:

- A lump or thickening in the breast
- A change in the size or shape of the breast
- A dimpling or puckering of the skin
- Nipple discharge
- Redness or swelling of the breast
- Pain in the breast

Traditional treatment

The primary treatment for breast cancer is surgery, such as a lumpectomy or mastectomy. Radiation therapy and chemotherapy are often used in combination with surgery to kill remaining cancer cells.

Research breakthroughs

New research is exploring personalized treatment approaches. By understanding the tumor’s genetic makeup, doctors can tailor treatment to the individual patient.

Questions for your doctor

- What is the stage of the tumor, and how far it has spread?
- What are the estimated survival rates for patients with this type of breast cancer?
- Are there any clinical trials available for me or a loved one?

Mark Feinsand

The Yankees lose only their third in the past 21 games between the teams including the post season.

Meg Vincent

The Yankees’ loss was only their third in the past 21 games between the teams including the post season.

BY THE NUMBERS

1

Chances of surviving breast cancer one year after diagnosis.

8

Chances of surviving breast cancer five years after diagnosis.

30%

Chances of recurrence within five years of diagnosis.

5-4, in 10 innings.

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