

INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

- ◆ **THERE IS MORE THAN ONE KIND OF BREAST CANCER**
- ◆ **YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A LUMP TO HAVE BREAST CANCER.**
- ◆ **BUT SOMETIMES A LUMP APPEARS AND GROWS QUICKLY!**

What is Inflammatory Breast Cancer, IBC?

- ◆ **IBC is a serious, often fatal cancer. However, recent studies show about 40% survival five years after diagnosis.**
- ◆ **See your doctor if you have any of the symptoms; if the symptoms are caused by IBC, the sooner a diagnosis is made and treatment begins, the better the survival chance.**

Symptom of IBC ...

Warm, swollen breast that does not change through the menstrual cycle or respond to antibiotics.

Symptom of IBC ...

**Skin which is red or dimpled
or appears thickened**

Symptom of IBC ...

**Sudden appearance of a lump
in the breast**

Symptom of IBC ...

**Nipple which becomes
flattened or retracted,
with or without discharge**

Symptom of IBC ...

**Swollen lymph nodes under
the arm or above the collar
bone**

Lee Smith described IBC ...

If a breast swells up to half again its normal size over a couple of days, hurts like hell, is hot and becomes an “innie” nipple instead of an “outie” and reminds you to buy oranges your next shopping trip ... then I say IBC.

Lee Smith

IBC IS AGGRESSIVE

- ◆ **IBC is a very aggressive, often misdiagnosed form of breast cancer.**
- ◆ **IBC symptoms often will first be treated with antibiotics as an infection.**
- ◆ **A mammogram, ultrasound and biopsy should be completed ASAP.**
- ◆ **It is a very aggressive and deadly cancer which needs to be identified and treated with haste.**

Who needs to know about IBC?

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- ◆ **All of us need to know about IBC – Men as well as women have been diagnosed with IBC.**
- ◆ **Partners need to be aware of the symptoms since they often see the initial symptoms before the patient.**
- ◆ **IBC can occur in young women including during pregnancy and before menopause.**
- ◆ **IBC is often thought to be mastitis (an infection) or a dermatological problem appearing as a rash.**

Who needs to know about IBC?

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- ◆ One of the most *unfortunate facts* about IBC is that many professionals in the medical field are not familiar with the symptoms of Inflammatory Breast Cancer; therefore precious time is consumed prescribing antibiotics to treat symptoms.
- ◆ Physician's Assistants, Nurses, and Mammography Technicians need to know too.
- ◆ Dermatologists need to know since IBC skin symptoms may result in a referral to their office.

Radiologists need to know ...

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- ◆ **MAMMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS INCLUDE:**
 1. skin thickening in 24 patients (92%)
 2. diffusely increased density in 21 patients (81%)
 3. trabecular thickening in 16 patients (62%)
 4. axillary lymphadenopathy in 15 patients (58%)
 5. architectural distortion or focal asymmetrical density in 13 patients (50%) and nipple retraction in 10 patients (38%)
 6. Malignant-appearing calcifications were seen in six patients (23%) and
 7. A mass was seen in four patients (15%)

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Radiologists need to know ...

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Conclusion:

- Diffuse mammographic abnormalities such as skin thickening, increased density, trabecular thickening, and axillary lymphadenopathy are common at presentation in patients with inflammatory breast cancer.
- *“Mammographic Masses and malignant-appearing calcifications are uncommon manifestations of this disease.”*

Source: AJR 2000 Feb; 174(2): 535-8:

Primary Inflammatory Carcinoma of the Breast: Retrospective Review of Mammographic Findings, Kushwaha, A.C.