

Fact Sheet

Did You Know?

Inflammatory Breast Cancer occurs more frequently and at a younger age in African American women.*

* Source: National Cancer Institute



What You Can Do:

- Seek medical attention immediately if any symptoms persist for more than a week
- Consider participating in a clinical trial for IBC
- Share information about IBC with family, sistahfriends, and colleagues

Inflammatory Breast Cancer

Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) is a very aggressive form of breast cancer that defies what we typically think of as breast cancer--there isn't usually a lump. Rather, symptoms of IBC include:

- breast swelling;
- redness;
- feverish to the touch;
- inverted nipple;
- discoloration of the areola (area surrounding the nipple);
- discharge;
- dimpling of the breast skin;
- thickening of breast tissue;
- enlarged lymph nodes under the arm; and/or
- persistent itching of the breast (not relieved by topical lotion or cream).

This rare form of breast cancer can appear literally overnight, and is often mistaken for a breast infection. Initially doctors may prescribe antibiotics for the "infection."

Treatment of IBC often begins with chemotherapy, which affects all the cells of the body to control or kill cancer cells that may have spread throughout the body. Subsequent treatment may include surgery, radiation or drug therapies.

Not much is known about the increased risk of IBC for African American women, and participation in clinical trials is strongly encouraged. Please consult your doctor.

*Sources: National Cancer Institute and Inflammatory Breast Cancer Foundation

