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Breast Cancer

According to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation - "Breast cancer continues to be the most common cancer in Canadian women over the age of 20, representing 26 percent of all cancer cases in Canadian women. It is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Canadian women and the third leading cause of death after heart disease, and lung cancer.*"

As with all major diseases, we have made progress in understanding and developing treatments to tackle this disease. Although the path to recover is a personal one, here are some of the latest statistics about breast cancer.

Opting for a Mastectomy

More women are choosing to have a preventative double mastectomy after a case of breast cancer. Although fear of recurrence is driving the trend, there is a less than 1% chance of this happening in women who:

- do not have a breast cancer gene
- do not have a relative with breast cancer
- had cancer in only one breast

The benefits of this procedure should be evaluated against the risk of complications such as pain, infection and scarring

Breast Cancer Link to Ovarian Tumours

One of the more deadly forms of breast cancer, basal-like tumours, accounts for 10% of all breast cancers. This type of cancer tends to affect younger women and those of African heritage.

Now, research from the human genome project, shows that this sub-type shares much in common with ovarian tumours. This information may lead to a different treatment strategy and improve the outcomes for these patients.

Mammograms – Get the Breast Test

Screening Mammography is a vital tool for the early detection of breast cancer; it is also one of the best predictors of successful treatment. More than half of women in their 40s who discovered they have breast cancer this way had no family history of breast cancer and thus, no reason to be concerned that they were at risk.

If you have questions about cancer and treatments that can support you during the healing process, talk to our pharmacists. They are always happy to help.

While preventing cancer is one of the holy grails of medicine, early detection is, perhaps, the next best thing. Although the results of screening may not be what you hope for, remember that knowledge is powerful medicine!