**FACTS ABOUT MALE BREAST CANCER AND INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER**

**Definition**
- Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that has developed from cells of the breast, which can metastasize and spread outside of the breast area to other regions of the breast.
- Although men have significantly less breast tissue than women, they are still at risk for the disease. The most common type of breast cancer found in men is invasive ductal carcinoma, which is an abnormal growth of cells that line the ducts of the breast tissue.

**Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC)**
- Inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) is the most hostile type of breast cancer. It is called IBC because its main symptoms are redness and swelling of the breast.
- Unlike other forms of breast cancer, IBC symptoms do not include a distinct lump or tumor; instead, the cancer cultivates in nests or sheets that spread through the breast.

**Incidence and Prevalence**
- An estimated 1,720 cases of male breast cancer are expected in 2006 according to the American Cancer Society.
- The risk of male breast cancer increases with men over age 67.
- Breast cancer in men remains extremely rare, as women are still 100 times more likely to get the disease than men.
- Inflammatory breast cancer accounts for about one to six percent of new cases of male breast cancer and is slightly more common in African Americans and/or younger patients.

**Mortality**
- An estimated 460 U.S. men died from the disease in 2005, according to the American Cancer Society.
- Stage for stage, the survival rate for both men and women are similar; however, men tend to be diagnosed with larger cancers and at more advanced stages than women.

**Symptoms**
- Signs and symptoms of breast cancer may include:
  - A painless lump or solid mass in the breast tissue, or swelling or dimpling of the breast area
  - Redness or scaling of the nipple or breast skin
  - Discharge from the nipple
  - Change in shape or appearance of the nipple, including inversion
  - Swollen lymph nodes or glands near the underarm
- Signs and symptoms of IBC may include:
  - Significant, often sudden, increase in size of one breast over the other
  - Sudden warmth and swelling in the breast
  - Redness or pinkness that may look like an infection
  - Dimpling of the skin that may resemble the skin of an orange
  - Ridges or thickened areas of skin
  - Change in the color of the areola
  - A bruise that does not go away
**Risk Factors**
- Risk factors for male breast cancer include:
  - Age (increased risk over age 67)
  - Family history of breast cancer
  - Inherited gene mutation BRCA2, suspected to account for 5-10% of breast cancer in men
  - Klinefelter syndrome, a congenital birth defect that causes 1 in 1,000 men to be born with extra X-chromosomes
  - Radiation exposure
  - Alcohol intake
  - Liver disease, which may cause men to have higher levels of estrogen
  - Estrogen treatment
  - Physical inactivity and obesity

**Screening**
- Men ages 50 - 60 are increasingly encouraged to perform the same breast self-examination that women perform.
- Clinical breast examinations can be performed to locate lumps or suspicious areas
- Diagnostic mammography (an x-ray of the breast) is often performed in conjunction with a biopsy, when signs and symptoms of the disease are present
- Breast ultrasound is sometimes used to evaluate breast abnormalities that are found during mammography or a physical exam

**Treatment**
- The same treatment methods that are used to treat female breast cancer are used to treat male breast cancer, including:
  - Surgery (mastectomy)
  - Systemic therapy
  - Chemotherapy (oral and IV)
  - Radiation therapy
  - Hormone therapy
  - Monoclonal antibodies
  - Biophosphonates

*All references are from the ACS Breast Cancer in Men Web site, http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_is_male_breast_cancer_28.asp.*

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