



"Today I am healthy and feeling fabulous because of the care that I received from my physicians and nurses at Yale Cancer Center."

— Laurie

begin with *hope...*

Yale CANCER
CENTER
Breast Cancer Program

Yale-New Haven Breast Center



Yale-New Haven Breast Center and Yale Cancer Center Breast Cancer Program

Breast Cancer is both the most common cancer in women and one of the most feared diseases by women of all ages. The Yale-New Haven Breast Center and the Yale Cancer Center Breast Cancer Program provide coordinated, state-of-the-art care for patients with benign and malignant diseases of the breast. The Yale-New Haven Breast Center specializes in screening, diagnosis, and surgical treatment of both benign breast problems and breast cancer. For those patients diagnosed with breast cancer, the Yale Cancer Center Breast Cancer Program offers dedicated care, innovative treatment options, and the recognized expertise of a National Cancer Institute designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. A great deal of progress has been made in the detection and treatment of breast cancer and Yale physicians are leading the way in these advances.

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Breast symptoms such as lumps, discharge, and pain or abnormalities on mammograms are extremely common. Although only a small percentage of these symptoms turn out to be caused by cancer, they produce a great deal of anxiety and worry among women. The Yale-New Haven Breast Center ensures that women who have had abnormal mammograms are carefully evaluated by a breast surgeon and breast radiologist to determine the cause and recommend the management of breast symptoms.

Women with a diagnosis of breast cancer should be cared for by a multidisciplinary team of specialists, including radiologists, breast surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, and plastic surgeons. At the Yale Cancer Center Breast Cancer Program, all new cases of breast cancer are carefully reviewed by a complete panel of breast specialists so that the best recommendations for treatment can be made.

The emphasis within the Breast Cancer Program is on providing coordinated appointments with all the appropriate specialties. If a woman is being evaluated for a breast abnormality, she can arrange a breast imaging study at the same time as her appointment with the breast surgeon. Similarly if she has breast cancer, she can be evaluated by the breast surgeon, medical oncologist, and radiation oncologist during the same visit to the multidisciplinary breast cancer clinic.


Patient Care

Breast Imaging

The breast imaging center performs approximately 20,000 breast examinations each year. These consist of screening and diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) examinations. In addition, over 1,000 needle biopsies of the breast are performed each year. Yale is a recognized leader in breast interventional procedures and is one of the few facilities in the region that can perform MRI guided needle biopsies. The radiologists who interpret the imaging examinations and perform needle biopsies are all specialists in breast imaging who each interpret several thousand examinations per year. Breast imaging is also available through our mobile mammography service and at a satellite facility on Long Wharf in New Haven.

Breast Surgery

Although many general surgeons perform breast surgery, there is no question that dedicated breast surgeons have the experience and knowledge to handle difficult or unusual cases and generally are more likely to understand the complexities of breast diagnosis and treatment. The surgeons affiliated with the Yale-New Haven Breast Center perform breast surgery exclusively. Historically, Yale surgeons were among the first to perform a lumpectomy instead of a mastectomy and were leaders in the development of non-invasive procedures like sentinel lymph node biopsy, intraoperative guidance by ultrasound, and advanced oncoplastic procedures. Careful attention is given to achieve the highest chance for cure while achieving the best possible cosmetic result and quality of life for women with breast cancer.



“The compassionate care that I received from my oncologist at Yale helped me to find the hope and strength that I needed to overcome my cancer.”

- Cindy

“I am grateful to the physicians and all of the members of my care team at Yale Cancer Center. Their expertise and care will allow me to create wonderful new memories with my family.”

- Jackie



KRISTIN BURKE

Reconstructive Surgery

Sometimes, mastectomy is the best option for the surgical treatment of breast cancer. Yale breast surgeons collaborate with specialized plastic surgeons to offer a variety of options to patients for breast reconstruction following their mastectomy. Reconstructions vary from the placement of a simple implant to elaborate reconstructions using natural tissue from the abdomen or back. In each case, the approach is customized by Yale surgeons to best fit the goals and lifestyle of the patient.

Medical Oncology

Many patients with breast cancer also need drug therapy, such as chemotherapy or hormonal therapy, in addition to surgery and radiation. Nationally known experts in medical oncology specializing in breast cancer utilize both standard approaches and new 'biological' or 'targeted' therapies designed to attack the cancer specifically while avoiding harm to normal tissues. The Yale Cancer Center Breast Cancer Program also provides novel treatment strategies, which are not available outside of a clinical trial.

Investigators at Yale are famous throughout the world for elucidating the biology of a cellular receptor called HER2. Medical oncologists at Yale Cancer Center have been particularly successful in developing treatment strategies for HER2 positive breast cancer and have extended this expertise to provide innovative therapies for basal-like and ER positive breast cancer. In addition to treating patients here, Yale Cancer Center medical oncologists are happy to see patients for a second opinion and collaborate with community oncologists who may be closer to a patient's home.

Radiation Oncology

Treatment with radiation is an integral part of therapy for the majority of breast cancer patients today. Yale-New Haven Hospital's Radiation Therapy Department has state-of-the-art radiation therapy facilities integrated with Yale Cancer Center. Yale radiation oncologists were one of the first groups to begin treating breast cancer patients with lumpectomy and radiation therapy, and currently have access to one of the largest databases of lumpectomy patients in the world. The radiation oncologists at Yale are consistently seeking out the best methods for the delivery of radiation therapy to our patients, including partial breast irradiation.

Pathology

One of the most important elements of modern breast cancer treatment is a high-level pathology service. Yale is fortunate to have one of the finest pathology departments in the country. Today breast cancer is divided into an increasingly complex number of categories based on a whole host of sophisticated molecular markers, special stains, and subtle differences that were not available a few years ago. Pathologists play a crucial role in the treatment planning conferences as the treatment options available for a given patient frequently change after careful review by these experts.

Patient Support Services

The Yale-New Haven Breast Center and Yale Cancer Center Breast Cancer Program place great emphasis on taking care of all of our patients' needs, with the best medical care available and a network of supportive care services. The patient support staff provides essential services such as nursing, social work, pastoral support, dietary and nutritional aid, physical therapy, and rehabilitation and psychosocial support.

“The collaborative care that women receive at Yale Cancer Center provides them with access to a team of breast cancer specialists who work together to create a customized treatment plan for each patient.”

Dr. Lyndsay Harris,

Co-Director of the Yale Cancer Center Breast Cancer Program

Appointments

How to Make an Appointment

The Yale–New Haven Breast Center and the Yale Cancer Center Breast Cancer Program provide convenient appointments, rapid diagnosis and treatment, and access to the most up-to-date technology and research protocols. Most importantly, women receive personal, friendly, confidential care that is designed to meet the needs of the whole patient, not just the disease.

A patient coordinator helps to arrange appointments so that women can be evaluated expeditiously by the most appropriate specialists. If a woman knows which specialists she needs to see, appointments may also be made directly with that section at the telephone numbers listed at right. However, if a woman needs to see multiple physicians for a comprehensive evaluation or is not sure which doctor she needs to see, she can call (203) 785-2328 and a patient care coordinator will help arrange coordinated visits with the necessary specialists.

What to Bring to the First Appointment

For a first visit, it is most helpful if patients can bring all available breast imaging studies and reports, pathology reports, slides, doctor's referral notes, and the results of any other pertinent tests or consultations. The patient care coordinator will be glad to help women organize this so the physicians will have everything needed to ensure efficient and prompt management of their medical care.



Yale-New Haven Breast Center



Patient Care Coordinator
(203) 785-2328

Breast Imaging
(203) 688-6800

Medical Oncology
(203) 785-4191

Radiation Oncology
(203) 688-1861

Breast Surgery
(203) 785-2328

Reconstructive Surgery
(203) 785-2571

Genetic Counseling
(203) 764-8400

866-YALECANCER
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