

IBC New England Region, Inc.

Founded in 2008, Inflammatory Breast Cancer New England Region, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to supporting programs that educate and build awareness about inflammatory breast cancer. Through its website and educational materials, the organization serves as a resource for patients, caregivers and service providers.

*The printing of this brochure was
generously donated by*

SBLI[®]
**THE NO NONSENSE
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY[®]**

Inflammatory Breast Cancer New England Region, Inc.
PO Box 850303
Braintree, MA 02185

The facts about

Inflammatory Breast Cancer



(IBC) is a rare and aggressive form of breast cancer, accounting for 1% to 5% of all breast cancers.



IBC NE
Inflammatory Breast Cancer
New England Region, Inc.

Inflammatory Breast Cancer
New England Region, Inc.
is a nonprofit organization
dedicated to supporting education
and awareness about IBC.

IBC New England Region, Inc.
P.O. Box 850303
Braintree, MA 02185
www.ibc-ne.com

What is inflammatory breast cancer?

Inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) is a rare form of breast cancer, accounting for one to five percent of all breast cancers, according to the American Cancer Society.

IBC is an aggressive form of breast cancer that can travel through the lymphovascular system. One quarter of the time, it may present at an advanced stage. The small tumor cells cause blockage of the lymph vessels in the skin over the breast. This results in the breast often having a red, warm, and swollen appearance. The skin may develop a thick, pitted appearance that resembles an orange peel and is referred to as “peau d’orange.” The symptoms sometimes can be very similar to a breast mastitis (infection).

While IBC can occur at any age, the average age of those diagnosed is younger than most breast cancers and is typically under the age of 45.

What are the symptoms?

Not all breast cancer presents itself in the form of a lump.

Symptoms of IBC can include:

- redness of the skin, such as a “rash” or sun-burn appearance
- nipple flattening or retraction or discharge
- thickening or hardening of the breast skin
- dimpling or pitted appearance, (called peau d’orange)
- skin feels warm
- increase in total breast size, swelling
- tenderness in the breast may or may not be present

What do I do next?

Report the symptoms to a doctor immediately. Prompt treatment is needed after diagnosis.

IBC is often difficult to detect on a mammogram because the cancer does not typically form a lump that is easily seen with the standard technology available. Diagnosis will likely result from a biopsy. It is important to note that IBC is a clinical diagnosis and a biopsy is needed when suspected for confirmation.

Current treatment usually involves initial chemotherapy to decrease pain, swelling and redness and improve the results of surgery. Additional treatments depend on the extent of the cancer and its response to initial chemotherapy, but usually involve surgery, radiation and perhaps additional chemotherapy, hormonal therapy or immunotherapy (trastuzumab) if the oncogene HER2 is present.

How do I find more information about research and support?

IBC New England Region, Inc. supports a peer-driven network that was formed in December, 2001 to provide support and information for women with IBC. Participants attend from throughout New England. They range in age and treatment status, and some are long-term survivors. The group holds face-to-face meetings periodically during the year, with support from Facing Cancer Together: A Community of Hope in Newton, Mass.

To find out more about the networking group contact:

Inflammatory Breast Cancer
New England Region, Inc.
www.ibc-ne.com

Facing Cancer Together: A Community of Hope
Newtonville, Massachusetts
www.facing-cancer.org
617-332-5777