



Breast Cancer Morbidity and Mortality

Globally, there are approximately 6.9 million patients diagnosed with breast cancer, with 2.1 million incident cases of breast cancer annually and 627,000 breast cancer-related deaths. Breast cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer mortality among women globally.¹ The incidence of breast cancer varies by region, with the highest rates observed in United States and Northern Europe followed by Southern and Eastern Europe, South America, and Asia.¹ In Canada, one in eight women is expected to develop breast cancer during her lifetime, and one in thirty women is expected to die from this disease.² In 2020, it is estimated that approximately 27,400 women in Canada will be diagnosed with breast cancer with 5,100 breast cancer-related deaths.³ The risk of breast cancer increases with age, with approximately 86% of incident cases occurring in women over the age of 50.²

Breast cancer treatment options have evolved over the past three decades. In the past, patients diagnosed with breast cancer were restricted to treatment options such as mastectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. However, novel treatments for breast cancer, including endocrine therapy and targeted agents, have led to significant improvement in breast cancer survival. Correspondingly, the five-year survival rate for all invasive breast cancers in Canada is 88% and approximately 80% of patients diagnosed with invasive breast cancer survive to 15 years.^{2,3} The landscape of breast cancer therapeutics continues to evolve with addition of novel immunotherapy agents and targeted small molecule inhibitors providing more personalized care and improved outcomes for patients diagnosed with breast cancer.

References

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2. Canadian Cancer Society. Canadian Cancer Statistics. 2019
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