Breast Cancer in Young Women

Breast Cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in women under the age of 40.

4% of breast cancers in Canada occurred in women under the age of 40 (approximately 1,055 cases) in 2013.

18% of all new breast cancer cases in Canada are diagnosed in women less than 50 years of age.

9% of all breast cancers diagnosed before the age of 40 are attributable to mutations in BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes.

WOMEN DIAGNOSED AT A YOUNG AGE HAVE LOWER SURVIVAL RATES AND EXPERIENCE POORER QUALITY OF LIFE THAN WOMEN DIAGNOSED AT A LATER STAGE OF LIFE.

Low incidence
Unexpected finding
CHALLENGES OF DIAGNOSING BREAST CANCER IN YOUNG WOMEN
Dense breast tissue
Lack of regular screening programs

Infertility
Body image
Shock
Child care
Premature menopause
CONCERNS FOR YOUNG WOMEN
Early mortality
Sexuality
Relationship challenges
Early career disruptions
Depression

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation