

Bumrungrad launches the Breast Center for advanced medical treatments — addressing breast problems for all genders.

The World Health Organization (WHO) stated in 2020, 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer and 684,996 globally have died from it. In Thailand, the National Cancer Institute reports 39.8% of hospital patients are breast cancer patients, the most common cancer in women. Most patients are 45-55 years old and were diagnosed with stage 2 or 3 breast cancer.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wichai Vassanasiri, Surgeon and Medical Director of the Breast Center at Bumrungrad International Hospital states, “Statistics show we need to continue campaigning for breast cancer awareness so more people realize the importance of early diagnosis. Early diagnosis leads to higher chances of recovery and survival. The causes and risk factors of breast cancer include, being over 40 years old, high animal fat and red meat consumption, being overweight, smoking, drinking alcohol, and not exercising. Moreover, extended exposure to estrogen can increase the risk of breast cancer. That is, women who start menstruation before 12 or stop menstruating after 55 or have taken birth control pills for a long time are at greater risk. Other risk factors are having been exposed to chest or breasts radiation, giving birth to a first child when over 35 years old, and having a family history of breast or ovarian cancer. If a woman has an immediate family member, like a mother or a sister, who has had breast cancer before 40 years of age, she is at greater risk of developing breast cancer. Also, mutations of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are associated with an increased risk of developing breast cancer. At Bumrungrad, we also provide gene mutation screenings.”

Recently in October, breast cancer awareness month, Bumrungrad opened the Breast Center, which is a center of excellence at Bumrungrad International Hospital. The Breast Center delivers holistic medical services regarding breast health for all genders, including preventive measures, diagnoses, and treatments by our interdisciplinary teams of experts who are experienced in breast-related health. We provide breast-conserving surgery, breast reconstruction surgery, sentinel lymph node biopsy, radio isotope, ICG: Indocyanine green for identify lymph node, and cryoablation. These advanced technologies enhance effectiveness in giving our patients the best medical care. At Bumrungrad, we use the latest technologies, and our teams of experts are determined to provide fast, seamless patient-centered medical services.

Having a screening is key to breast cancer treatment because it enables doctors to diagnose the cancer and customize treatment plans immediately. Common screening tests include breast self-examinations, mammogram, and breast ultrasound. Women over 40 years old should have a mammogram once per year or every two years. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is called for when mammogram results suggest abnormalities and confirmation and accuracy are needed. Bumrungrad makes use of Lunit AI, together with mammograms, to assist radiologists and cancer specialists in interpreting the results so that we can deliver the most accurate and effective treatments.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wichai Vassanasiri adds, “At present, there are still a lot of misunderstandings about breast cancer. In fact, breast cancer does not only occur in women, as it affects less than 1% men. The causes and symptoms of breast cancer in men are similar to those in women. Moreover, breast size does not affect the risk for developing breast cancer. Soy milk and coconut oil consumption does not increase the risk either, although these products contain component which function similarly to estrogen. Mammography does not increase risk as the advanced technology requires little radiation.”

For more information and inquiries, please contact the Breast Center, Bumrungrad International Hospital, 16th Floor, Building A (Clinic) or call 02 011 3694 and 1378.

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