

MALE BREAST CANCER

Find out more.

Men can get breast cancer, too

Men don't think of themselves as having breasts. For men, it's their chest or their "pecs." So it may come as a surprise to learn men are at risk of [breast cancer](#). The fact is that men have breast tissue and can get breast cancer.

Did you know?

- In 2026, more than 2,600 men in the U.S. will be newly diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 500 men will die from it.
- Up to 40% of breast cancers in men in the U.S. may be related to a [BRCA2 inherited gene mutation](#).

Here's what to look for:

The most common [warning signs](#) of breast cancer in men are a painless lump or thickening in the breast, chest or underarm area. However, any change in the breast or nipple can be a warning sign of male breast cancer.

If you notice any warning signs or other changes in your breast, chest or underarm area, or nipple, see a [doctor](#) right away. Putting off seeing a doctor can result in a delay in breast cancer diagnosis. Survival is highest when breast cancer is found early and treated.

Don't ignore it!

Most men don't know they can get breast cancer. They may:

- Not know it's important to see a doctor about a change in their breast or chest area.
- Be embarrassed by what they found.
- Ignore warning signs or other changes in their breast, chest or underarm area, or nipple.
- Wait too long to get help, leading to a later stage at diagnosis.



"My husband, Lee Giller, lived with breast cancer for nearly 12 years. Throughout his battle, we would encounter people who did not know men could also be afflicted with this disease. Some would even laugh at the notion. It was Lee's candor and courage that helped educate people that anyone can get breast cancer. He never felt any shame or embarrassment about having what so many still think of as only a woman's disease.

We walked together in 18 Susan G. Komen 3-Day events and raised more than a half million dollars to help fight breast cancer and raise awareness about the risk for men. These events were inundated with women, but Lee humbly became the face and voice for male breast cancer. Our team was known as "Breast Man

Walking" with the tagline "Rare but Real" emblazoned on our shirts. As we marched shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow warriors, our message served as an important reminder.

We lost Lee at the age of 59, but his legacy remains. Lee's example of eternal hope will continue to be a beacon of light for all who knew and loved him." – Kathy Giller

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Find out more.

Resources:

Susan G. Komen®

1-877 GO KOMEN
(1-877-465-6636)
komen.org

Sharsheret

Sharsheret.org/breast-cancer/for-men/

Related online resources:

- [Treatment for Male Breast Cancer](#)
- [Support Groups for Men with Breast Cancer](#)
- [Breast Cancer in Men-Real Pink Podcast](#)
- [Men Get Breast Cancer, Too](#)

You may be at risk

We don't know what causes breast cancer or who will get it, but we do know there are some things that may put men at higher risk, such as:

- Older age
- BRCA 1/2 inherited gene mutations
- Family history of breast or other types of cancer
- Gynecomastia (enlargement of the breast)
- Klinefelter's syndrome (a genetic condition related to high levels of estrogen in the body)
- Being overweight or obese

Talk with your doctor about your risk of breast cancer. Even if you have more than one risk factor, you may never get breast cancer. And men who have no known risk factors can still get it.

If you're diagnosed with breast cancer

Don't let the shock of the diagnosis distract you from the seriousness of this disease. [Ask questions.](#)

Gather as much information as you can to help you make decisions about your treatment.

All men diagnosed with breast cancer should talk with their doctor about [genetic testing](#).

Treatment can help

If tests show you have breast cancer, you will need [treatment](#). Your treatment will depend on:

- The type of breast cancer you have.



- The stage of your breast cancer.
- Treatment involves some combination of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, HER2-targeted therapy or other drug therapy.

You're not alone

Many men have been where you are today. It may help to talk with others. Your doctor may be able to help you find a [support group](#) for yourself or your loved ones. The Komen Patient Care Center can also help you find resources in your area. Call 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) or email helpline@komen.org.

Remember

Don't ignore the warning signs!

See a doctor if you notice any change in your chest area, such as a lump or a change in your nipples. Breast cancer can't be prevented, but if you're diagnosed, it can make a difference if you:

- Find it early and report it to a doctor.
- Get treated right away.

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