



Texas Breast Center Highlights Critical Disparities in Breast Cancer Risk Among Black Women, Calls for Urgent Action

November 01, 2024

Waxahachie, Texas - November 01, 2024 - PRESSADVANTAGE -

In a groundbreaking effort to address the pressing issue of breast cancer among Black women, Texas Breast Center, under the expert leadership of Dr. Gorman, has released new findings and insights into the elevated risks and unique challenges faced by this population. Breast cancer has become a significant health concern for Black women, who are often diagnosed with more aggressive forms of the disease at younger ages, leading to a higher mortality rate compared to their white counterparts. As the leading cause of cancer death among Black women, surpassing even lung cancer, this issue demands immediate and focused attention from both the medical community and the public. Texas Breast Center discusses the issue in the article, "Breast Cancer Risk Among Black Women," which can be found on their website here: <https://www.texasbreastcenter.com/breast-cancer/breast-cancer-risk-among-black-women>

The data reveals that while the overall incidence of breast cancer is slightly lower among Black women compared to white women, the nature of the disease in Black women is more severe and challenging to treat. Black women are twice as likely to develop triple-negative breast cancer, a particularly aggressive subtype that is less responsive to standard hormonal therapies, resulting in fewer treatment options and a poorer

prognosis. Compounding this issue is the fact that Black women are often diagnosed at later stages of the disease, with only 57% of cases being detected early, compared to 67% in white women. These delays in diagnosis and treatment contribute to a 40% higher mortality rate from breast cancer in Black women in the United States.

Dr. Gorman, a leading expert in breast health and founder of Texas Breast Center, emphasizes the critical importance of early detection and targeted treatment strategies to improve outcomes for Black women. "The disparities in breast cancer outcomes between Black women and white women are alarming and unacceptable. It is imperative that we address the specific risks and challenges faced by Black women through tailored care, early detection, and the latest advancements in treatment. At Texas Breast Center, we are committed to providing comprehensive and personalized care to reduce these disparities and improve survival rates."

Genetics also play a significant role in the heightened breast cancer mortality among Black women. Research has identified genetic variants specific to African ancestry that are associated with an increased risk of developing aggressive subtypes like triple-negative breast cancer. Notably, mutations in the BRCA2 and PALB2 genes are more prevalent in Black women, further elevating their risk. Other genetic variants have been linked to more aggressive tumor biology in Black women. These genetic factors, combined with socio-economic barriers and environmental influences, create a complex landscape that necessitates a multifaceted approach to care.

Dr. Gorman and her team at Texas Breast Center are at the forefront of this effort, integrating genetic counseling and advanced risk assessment tools into their care protocols. By utilizing polygenic risk scores that combine multiple genetic variants, they can provide more accurate risk predictions tailored to Black women, allowing for earlier and more effective interventions. "Understanding the genetic factors that contribute to the higher risk of aggressive breast cancer subtypes in Black women is crucial," Dr. Gorman explains. "This knowledge enables us to offer more personalized screening and treatment plans that are better suited to the specific needs of our patients."

However, the impact of social determinants of health cannot be overlooked. Black women are more likely to experience economic disadvantages, limited access to healthcare, and medical bias, all of which contribute to delayed diagnoses and poorer outcomes. Socioeconomic status, neighborhood disadvantage, and access to quality healthcare play significant roles in breast cancer disparities. For example, Black women often receive lower rates of surgery and chemotherapy, leading to suboptimal treatment outcomes. Moreover, experiences of medical racism and systemic inequalities in healthcare access further exacerbate these disparities, making it more challenging for Black women to receive timely and effective care.

The pressing need for targeted education and awareness campaigns is also highlighted by the Texas Breast

Center's findings. Black women must be made aware of their increased risk and the importance of early detection. Dr. Gorman advocates for widespread public health initiatives aimed at educating Black women about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, as well as the importance of regular screenings. "Education is one of the most powerful tools we have in the fight against breast cancer," Dr. Gorman asserts. "By empowering women with knowledge, we can help them take control of their health and reduce the disparities that have persisted for far too long."

In addition to education, Texas Breast Center emphasizes the importance of early screening and regular mammograms, particularly for Black women who are at higher risk. Early detection is crucial in improving breast cancer outcomes, as it allows for earlier intervention and a wider range of treatment options. The team at Texas Breast Center is committed to making these screenings accessible to all women, offering convenient scheduling and personalized care to encourage more women to take this critical step in managing their breast health.

For potential patients seeking more information about breast cancer risk among Black women, Texas Breast Center's website provides a wealth of resources, including detailed explanations of risk factors, treatment technology, and information on the latest treatment options available. The center's patient-focused approach ensures that every individual receives the care and support they need, from the initial consultation to long-term follow-up care. By visiting the Texas Breast Center website, patients can learn more about their specific risks, schedule appointments, and access a range of educational materials designed to help them make informed decisions about their health.

Texas Breast Center's commitment to reducing breast cancer disparities among Black women is unwavering. Through a combination of advanced medical care, patient education, and a focus on health equity, Dr. Gorman and her team are making significant strides in improving outcomes for this at-risk population. As the fight against breast cancer continues, the work being done at Texas Breast Center serves as a beacon of hope, offering a path forward for Black women facing this challenging disease.

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