Your Breast Cancer Treatment

Breast cancer is a life changing diagnosis, and here at Emory, we have a whole team of well-trained experts who will ‘walk along’ with you and guide you through this difficult journey. Our goal is to deliver world class, personalized care to each and every patient.

After diagnosis, you will be referred to our team of experts through the course of your treatment.

Our Team of Experts:

- **Radiologist**: Doctor who interprets your breast mammogram and MRI and other imaging which help to establish a diagnosis
- **Nurse Navigator**: Certified nurse who helps coordinate the care of breast cancer patients during treatment
- **Breast Surgical Oncologist**: Surgeon who performs surgery to the breast
- **Breast Medical Oncologist**: Doctor who will administer treatments that go through the whole body (systemic therapy) if they determine that you chemotherapy, endocrine therapy, or both and will
- **Radiation Oncologist**: Doctor who determines if you need radiation therapy (x-ray treatments) to the breast, chestwall and/or draining lymph nodes and oversees the team that administers radiation
- **Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon**: Surgeon who performs breast reconstruction after mastectomy or breast reduction procedures following the surgery performed by the breast surgical oncologist to remove the cancer from the breast.
- **Nutritionist**: A certified specialist who provides personalized nutrition advice to Winship Cancer patients who are undergoing treatment and also provides recommendations for a strong and healthy diet following treatment.
• **Genetic Counselor:** Board certified specialist who helps determine if you need testing for genes that increase your risk for cancer. In some individuals, genetic changes are passed down through families and inherited forms of cancer make up only 5 to 10% of all cancer cases.

• **Social Worker:** Licensed individual specializing in patients with cancer who provide practical assistance for things like how best to obtain medications, emotional support, and individual, family, and group counseling.

• **Lymphedema Therapist:** Certified specialist who diagnosis, manages, and treats arm swelling which may occur after breast surgery or radiation therapy.

• **Survivorship provider:** A license nurse practitioner who will conduct breast exams, order screening mammograms, and evaluate and treat long term side effects once active treatment has been completed.

**What Does a Medical Oncologist Do?**

When you are diagnosed with breast cancer, you will see a surgeon, medical oncologist, and a radiation oncologist. A medical oncologist is a doctor who determines if you need treatment that goes through the whole body also known as systemic therapy. Chemotherapy and endocrine therapy are examples of systemic therapy which may be given by an infusion (IV) or in pill form. You will see a medical oncologist either before or after surgery who will decide if your cancer should be treated with chemotherapy, endocrine therapy, or both.

**Chemotherapy**

- You may get this through IV or orally, depending on the stage of your cancer.
- Chemotherapy is given to shrink a tumor before surgery or after surgery if you have a large tumor or lymph node positive disease.
- Your doctor will determine if chemotherapy is needed before or after surgery.
- Usually a port is placed in the chest wall before chemotherapy and removed after chemotherapy.
Endocrine therapy

- This is in the form of an oral pill which is given only if you have estrogen positive breast cancer.
- In general, if you are premenopausal, you may be given tamoxifen; if postmenopausal, you will likely take a pill belonging to the group AI (Aromatase inhibitors).
- The above pill is taken once a day for 5 to 10 years

Surveillance

- Once you complete treatment, you will follow with the medical oncologist, surgical oncologist, and radiation oncologist for at least 5 years periodically to monitor for side effects and screenings for recurrence.
- You will also be referred to the Survivorship Clinic where you will see a provider for a summary of your treatment plan

Request an Appointment

The Glenn Family Breast Center at Winship Cancer Institute offers different paths to care based on where you are in your diagnosis. If you or a loved one have been recently diagnosed with breast cancer or you are seeking a second opinion, please contact us at 1 (888) 946-7447 or (404) 778-1900 to request an appointment.

Operated by Emory Healthcare, our breast imaging center offers 3-D mammography, ultrasound and other imaging services. To request an appointment for a mammogram, please call (404) 778-PINK (778-7465) to speak with a scheduling coordinator.