



Unlocking The Cures For Young Women With Breast Cancer

Experiences of a...

Women under 40

Women under 40 with breast cancer

Preparing for the future

Do I have a future? I'm the only one I know in my peer group experiencing this. It impacts all my relationships and gives me a feeling of loneliness.

Planning a family

Will I be able to have children? Breast cancer treatment may impact [fertility and timing](#).

Building financial security and considering major purchases like a house.

Can I even afford my medicine to help me live?

Growing in your career

How will I get everything done?

Physical health is attainable for most.

Treatment often has side effects that are hard on your body with permanent effects. It impacts your body image and how you feel.

Despite the median age of breast cancer diagnosis being 62 years old, breast cancer is still the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women under the age of 40.

In the US, nearly 15,000 women under age 40 will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2023. Roughly 1 in 3,000 pregnant women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during her pregnancy. These women are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced or aggressive breast cancers, and they face profound challenges from this diagnosis including infertility, physical and emotional tolls of diagnosis and aggressive treatment, and long-term comorbidities compared to older women with breast cancer. Help support innovative research into the unique biological factors leading to breast cancer in young women, studies on how to improve targeted treatments for aggressive breast cancers that young women are likely to be diagnosed with, and studies on how to improve fatigue, sexual well-being, and overall quality of life for young breast cancer survivors.



Young women need better research to understand the unique biology and impact of their breast cancers so they can live longer, healthier lives.

Susan G. Komen has been a proud supporter of the Young Women's Health Study since 2010, a groundbreaking study which enrolled 1300 women diagnosed with breast cancer before age 40 and followed them for 20 years. Komen's Chief Scientific Advisor, Dr. Ann Partridge, is the principal investigator of this study and has been leading the charge to unravel the unique biological and psychosocial breast cancer factors that women under age 40 experience.

Seeking The Causes Behind Worse Outcomes In Young Women



As an expert in the field, Dr. Partridge hypothesizes that there are unique factors at play in both the breast cancer and in the patient which lead to poor outcomes. In her groundbreaking new study, Dr. Partridge will use information provided through the Young Women's study to determine how the dynamics of treatment play a role in success, how age-related factors that impact the immune system can be leveraged to improve the benefits of treatment, and if researchers can answer questions regarding the complex physical, emotional, and biological needs of young patients. Findings from this study will identify the distinct characteristics that impact the progression, response to treatment, and biology of hormone-receptor positive breast cancer in women under 40, helping to tailor treatment and target interventions to improve outcomes and quality of life for these young women.

Ann Partridge
Komen funded researcher

BY SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS who are pioneering research in young women, we can improve outcomes.

What is 'young' for breast cancer?

Under the age of 40.

Mammographic screening isn't recommended for most women under the age of 40.

Breast cancers tend to be more aggressive.



Learn more about the latest information on breast cancer risk factors, screening, diagnosis, treatment, metastatic breast cancer, survivorship and more on **komen.org**