Breast Cancer Screening & Prevention

We care about you and respect your right in making health care decisions. By partnering with you and providing the best information possible on breast cancer screening and prevention, we hope to make decisions effortless. It is the mission of ThedaCare to improve the health of our communities.

Breast Cancer Prevention – a high priority for women and ThedaCare because:
• Breast Cancer is the most common type of cancer diagnosed in Wisconsin
• Breast Cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in Wisconsin women
• 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime

Mammography Screening
• Mammography screening is a special x-ray of the breast
• It is the main test method to detect possible breast cancer before it causes a lump or other symptoms

The Importance of Mammography Screening
• Early detection of breast cancer
• Breast cancer is often cured if caught at an early stage
• There is clear evidence showing screening mammography for women ages 40-49 reduces death from breast cancer

Possible Concerns Related to Mammography Screening
• Receiving abnormal results when there is no cancer present
• Missing a small cancer
• Treating tiny cancers that the body could kill on its own
• X-Ray Exposure - There is a very low chance of increasing the risk of cancer because of the x-ray exposure from the test itself

There has been discussion in the medical community regarding when women should get mammograms and how often they should get them. The messages that women receive may be confusing.

ThedaCare recommends screening mammograms beginning at age 40 and continuing every year until at least age 74 years old.

Women who have family members with breast cancer should talk to their primary doctor, or other medical provider, about possibly starting screening earlier than age 40.

Breast cancer can occur in women younger than 40 and in men even if you don’t have a family history. If you have breast lumps, pain, discharge, skin changes or other symptoms, contact your primary doctor or other medical provider.

The benefits of screening and early detection far outweigh any risks associated with mammograms.

Thank you for taking care of yourself and scheduling your mammogram.

You and your health are worth it.

If you would like to make an appointment, call our Central Scheduling office at 920-738-6521 or contact your primary care physician.

www.thedacare.org