The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven provides coordinated, state-of-the-art care for patients with benign and malignant diseases of the breast. For patients diagnosed with breast cancer, we offer dedicated care, innovative treatment options, and cutting edge research, coupled with the recognized excellence of a National Cancer Institute designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. A great deal of progress in the detection and treatment of breast cancer has been made in recent years, and our physicians are on the leading edge of finding even better solutions.

Our Center is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, and was the first National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center in the Northeast to hold this designation. Women with a diagnosis of breast cancer are cared for by a multidisciplinary team of physician specialists, including radiologists, breast surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, and plastic surgeons.

At Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, patients benefit from the expertise of a team approach to cancer care. Our multidisciplinary team meets weekly in our Tumor Board Conference to review cases and provide patients with the optimal care plan, ideally suited to them. Decisions are based on the most up-to-date research to ensure that all patients receive the best available breast cancer treatment. In addition, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, psychologists and other health professionals are key members of the team, providing the necessary supportive care throughout the breast cancer journey. Our goal is to ensure the highest standard of patient- and family-centered multidisciplinary care that takes care of the whole patient.

From the tranquility of the building and the range of services offered by complimentary therapy and the boutique, to the most sophisticated personalized therapies and equipment offered in every discipline, Yale offers the perfect blend of art and science to help you through your journey. We are committed to tailoring treatment to you. At different points in time, you may need different resources – at Smilow, we are pleased to provide you with coordinated appointments with all of the appropriate specialists at the right time, accommodating your personal values and schedule.

The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital provides women with convenient appointments, rapid diagnosis and treatment, and access to the most up-to-date technology and research protocols. Most importantly, women receive personal, friendly, confidential care that is designed to meet the needs of the whole patient, not just the disease.

When you call, a patient intake coordinator will help to arrange your appointments so that you will see all of the specialists needed during an initial visit.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE FIRST APPOINTMENT

For your first visit, it is most helpful if you bring all available breast imaging films and reports, pathology reports, slides, doctor’s referral notes, and the results of any other pertinent tests or consultations. The patient intake coordinator will be glad to help you organize this so the physicians will have everything needed to ensure efficient and prompt management of your medical care.

I was really scared, but just being in the environment of the Breast Center and feeling the atmosphere of the people there made me comfortable. The place is so calm and people are so kind and respectful. They showed me love. Even to this day, I enjoy going there.”

- Marjorie

p: (203) 200-2328

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BREAST IMAGING

The breast imaging center performs well over 20,000 breast examinations each year. These consist of ultrasonography and diagnostic mammography, MRI and X-ray imaging. The newest technology, digital tomosynthesis, creates a three-dimensional picture using breast x-rays for repeat mammograms. In addition, we offer radiologist-performed ultrasound, and 3-Tesla breast MRI. The radiologists at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven are recognized as leaders in their field and are involved in teaching, both on a local and national level.

BREAST AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Although many general surgeons perform breast surgery, there is no question that dedicated breast surgeons have the experience and knowledge to handle difficult or unusual cases and genuinely are the experts. Historically, Yale surgeons were among the first to perform a lumpectomy instead of a mastectomy for breast cancer patients. Today, we perform a wide variety of procedures including breast implants, DIEP flap reconstruction. Careful attention is given to the surgical margins, and we are involved in the development of non-invasive procedures like sentinel lymph node biopsy, intraoperative guidance by ultrasound, and advanced oncoplastic procedures. Our surgeons are experienced in cutting-edge modern techniques such as skin-sparing and nipple-sparing mastectomy, and often work hand-in-hand with our plastic surgeons to offer a variety of options for breast reconstruction.

RECONSTRUCTIONS vary from placement of a simple implant to elaborate reconstructions using natural tissue from the abdomen or back, such as TRAM or DIEP flap reconstruction. Careful attention is given to achieve the highest chance for cure while achieving the best possible cosmetic result and quality of life for women with breast cancer. In each case, the approach is customized to best fit the goals and lifestyle of the patient.

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Treatment with radiation is an integral part of therapy for many breast cancer patients today. Smilow Cancer Hospital’s Radiation Therapy Center has state-of-the-art radiation therapy facilities in the lower level of the hospital. Yale radiation oncologists were some of the first to begin treating breast cancer patients with lumpectomy and radiation therapy, and have been leaders in the field in research and clinical care of patients who receive radiation. The radiation oncologists at Yale consistently seek out the best methods for the delivery of radiation therapy to our patients, including the use of accelerated partial breast irradiation – a faster more convenient treatment for women who are appropriate candidates.

PATHOLOGY

Our medical oncologists are known for their unique expertise in breast cancer, and all new cases are discussed weekly by the breast cancer medical oncologists so that every patient benefits from the combined expertise of the entire group. In addition, our medical oncologists are happy to see patients for a second opinion. While many patients will opt to have their care at Smilow Cancer Hospital, we work closely with our colleagues at Smilow Care Centers, located throughout Connecticut, to ensure that patients can receive the best care possible wherever they choose to receive it.

GENETIC COUNSELING AND TESTING

Genetic counseling and testing is an important first step in evaluating and managing breast cancer risk. Yale genetics counselors provide genetic counseling and testing for patients with breast cancer and their family members. This is particularly important if the patient has a family history of breast cancer (≥50 years) or a triple-negative breast cancer before age 60 years, or of Jewish ancestry; and increasingly, the ability to profile tumors allows patients access to novel treatments that may be most effective for treating their particular tumor. Yale is fortunate to have one of the finest pathology teams in the world, and we have the experience and knowledge to handle difficult or unusual cases and genuinely are the experts. Our breast pathologists are experts in the field of breast pathology. They are involved in teaching, both on a local and national level and are involved in teaching, both on a local and national level.

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PATIENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital places great emphasis on taking care of all our patients’ needs, from the best medical care to a network of supportive care services. Our intake counselors work closely with a team of specialized oncology social workers at each facility to ensure that the correct test is ordered and that it is interpreted accurately. In addition, our genetic counselors work closely with a team of specialized breast and gynecologic oncologists, who can provide referral options to institutions outside of Yale.

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CLINICAL TRIALS

We are committed to not only providing you with the very best care today, but we are dedicated to cutting-edge research and innovative therapies that will advance the standard of care tomorrow. Our doctors and nurses work hand-in-hand with Yale Cancer Center scientists to find the answers to cancer – creating genomic codes that will lead to better therapies, less toxicity, and one day, a cure. You can be a part of this revolution. Patients who participate in clinical trials tend to do better than those receiving standard therapies and by participating in this important research, can help us move the field forward for others. Ask your doctor about what clinical trials might be right for you, and how you can participate.