

CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. The campaign also offers information and support to those affected by breast cancer.

Cancer means there is a growth that is not under normal control of the body. The cells replicate faster than usual and do not adhere together normally. This means the cells can invade local structures and the blood stream/lymphatic system. Breast cancer occurs when abnormal cells form a mass of extra tissue (a tumour) in the breast. Breast cancer is a general term for several different types of cancer that occur in the breast. The disease can be discovered by examination of the breasts (by yourself or a physician), mammography, ultrasound testing and/or biopsy. Treatment depends on the stage and type of the cancer, as well as your age and health.

South African women as a group have a one in nine chance of getting cancer, and breast cancer tops the list of possibilities, says the Cancer Association of South Africa. A closer look reveals that among white and Indian women it tops the list, and takes second place among black and colored women. As with many other cancers, early detection is crucial in ensuring effective treatment and a positive outcome – and about 90% of women who are diagnosed early with breast cancer and treated appropriately survive for many years.

Various campaigns have been organized by different enterprises to create awareness and raise funds for people suffering with Cancer. Such events include, Blackberry Pink Polo, Journey of Hope, Breast Cancer Walkathon, Pink Drive, Pink Hair Show You Care and various others.

Here at Hanslab, during the month of September we took the initiative to contribute towards the campaign by joining in on the National Cupcakes 4Kids with Cancer, where the proceeds were donated to children suffering with the disease.

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