WHY ARE MORE AND MORE OF US GETTING BREAST CANCER?

Every day, about 133 women in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer.

Join us and help prevent breast cancer

Make a Donation

You can donate online at www.breastcanceruk.org.uk or complete and post this form to No More Breast Cancer campaign, Breast Cancer UK, BM Box 7767, London WC1N 3XX

Name
Address
Postcode

I would like to make a donation of £

Increase the value of your gift by 25% by completing the Gift Aid Form which may be downloaded from our website: http://www.breastcanceruk.org.uk/support/donation_form.pdf

Signature
Date

For payment by cheque
Please make cheques payable to Breast Cancer UK.

For payment by credit or debit card
Please charge my card to Breast Cancer UK

Visa
Mastercard
Maestro
Delta

Credit card no

Three digit security code
Expires

For payment by monthly Bank Standing Order
Please pay Breast Cancer UK Co-operative Bank Community Direct Plus Account
Sort code: 08 92 99, Account no: 65458341

Bank name
Address
Postcode

Account name
Account no
Sort code

First payment date (dd/mm/yy)

Signature
Date

Bank use only. Quote ref no:

Email address:

I would like to be kept up to date with news and activities via email (You can unsubscribe at any time)

The No More Breast Cancer campaign highlights the links between breast cancer and our exposure to carcinogenic, hazardous and endocrine disrupting chemicals and environmental pollutants.

Breast Cancer UK wants the Government to acknowledge these links, to toughen chemicals regulation and put the prevention of breast cancer at the heart of public health policy.

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Breast Cancer UK
Preventing breast cancer

No More Breast Cancer is a campaign of Breast Cancer UK
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The breast cancer epidemic
Breast cancer rates have increased in England by 90% since records began in 1971. Across the UK, a woman’s lifetime risk of breast cancer has increased to one in eight. Each year, over 48,000 people are diagnosed with the disease and about 12,000 of us die of it.

Missing risk factors
There are a number of established risk factors for breast cancer, some of which we can control and others which we cannot. These include: genetic inheritance; early puberty; late menopause; having children later in life; not having children; not breast feeding; obesity and other ‘lifestyle’ factors, such as drinking alcohol or smoking.

Yet 50% or more of breast cancer cases are due to ‘unknown’ factors – in other words, they cannot be attributed to the established risk factors.

The chemical connection
Today, we are living with over 100,000 man-made chemicals, most of which have not been tested for safety. More than 500 of these are thought to disrupt the hormones in the body and mimic or interfere with the role of oestrogen – a hormone closely linked with the development of breast cancer.

Our exposure to these environmental pollutants in the home, workplace and environment is increasingly thought by scientists to be a missing risk factor behind rising levels of breast cancer. The concern lies not just with the behaviour of individual chemicals, but also how they react in combination with each other and interplay with our genes.

Body of evidence
Hazardous chemicals are in many of the products and items we use on a daily basis - plastics, tin cans, detergents, cosmetics and pesticides - and they accumulate in our bodies. Studies have found over 400 man-made chemicals in human blood and body tissue.

There is an increasing body of scientific research on the links between our exposure to hazardous chemicals and breast cancer. Our report ‘Breast cancer: an environmental disease – the case for primary prevention’, draws this body of work together as a ‘right to know’ document for all women (see: www.nomorebreastcancer.org.uk).

A safer future
With breast cancer rates escalating, it is implied that developing breast cancer is something of an inevitability. Breast Cancer UK aims to inform women that, whilst improved methods of detection and treatment are vital, breast cancer should be considered a preventable, not an inevitable, disease.

Policy makers are failing to take adequate action on the scientific evidence of the link between our exposure to carcinogenic, hazardous and hormone disrupting chemicals and increasing rates of breast cancer. By not doing so, they are placing an enormous and unsustainable financial cost on the NHS – and failing in their duty of care for thousands of women.

Breast Cancer UK considers that, for any public health strategy to be effective, it must include cancer risks that arise from chronic, life-long, multiple exposures to environmental pollutants, even at low-levels.

We challenge the Government to act by:
• protecting public health by taking a precautionary approach to carcinogenic, hazardous and endocrine disrupting chemicals in our environment and everyday products;
• enacting legislation to eliminate and restrict our exposure to toxic chemicals and/or to replace them with safer alternatives;
• including environmental factors and our exposure to carcinogenic, hazardous and endocrine disrupting chemicals as preventable risk factors for breast cancer in its National Cancer Plan and Strategy for Cancer.