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Men too can develop breast cancer, says expert

TNN Nov 1, 2011, 11:32AM IST

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KANPUR: Men, too, can develop breast cancer and its treatment could be more complex if diagnosed at an advanced stage, said Dr Roshni Rao, breast cancer specialist and oncologist while addressing students and faculty members of JK Cancer Hospital here on Monday.

"People are unaware that breast cancer can afflict men also as the disease is hardly reported. Men too have nodules in the breast and hormonal imbalance after the age of 40 can cause breast cancer," said Dr Rao, while talking to TOI.

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JK Cancer Hospital was observing 'Breast Cancer' month in October. Dr Roshni Rao from Harold C Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, Texas, was here in the city on Monday to deliver a lecture.

The authorities of JK Cancer Hospital said that more than 1,500 cases of breast cancer patients from the city and from nearby areas come for treatment. As many as 258 patients suffering of breast cancer, all women, came at the hospital in October.

Dr Rao said that breast cancer can be fully treated if it is noticed at an early stage. Many patients die as they came to doctors in very advanced stage.

Though women are more prone to breast cancer but it afflicts men too. The ratio is 1:100. Women in rural areas are more prone to breast cancer as they are unaware and hesitant of being examined.

The symptoms of breast cancer include swelling in the breast region, pus formation, and lumps in the armpits or breast region.

Mammography is the best way to detect cancer among women but depending on this test in case of men will not help because the small-sized breast cannot be satisfactorily examined by mammography machine.

MRI, CT scan and ultrasound are better options to detect the breast cancer. Also, the detection in early stage can be beneficial in saving many lives, as most of the cases get worsen if reported in the last stage, said Dr Avdhesh Dixit, director, JK Cancer Hospital.