



Carol Embery and
T. Wayne Rentz Jr., M.D.

Breast Cancer:

New Treatments, Better Outcomes

Death rates
from breast
cancer
dropped
from 1989
to 2015.

Source: American Cancer Society

39%

No woman wants to be told she has breast cancer. Yet, if this year is typical of previous years, at least 225,000 women in the U.S. will receive this diagnosis.

The good news is that more and more women are surviving the disease.

Survival rates are much higher with an early-stage breast cancer diagnosis.

Mammograms can find tiny tumors that often respond well to treatment. How the disease is treated continues to evolve, too. Physicians now develop personalized care plans based on the cancer stage and biology, as well as a woman's menopause status, age, health and genetics.

Fortunately, patients in Southeast Georgia don't have to travel far to take advantage of breast cancer treatment.

“At Southeast Georgia Health System, we have the latest technology for surgical and treatment options, including radiation and systemic therapy, as well as targeted therapy, for women with breast cancer at all stages,” says Antonio Moran Jr., M.D., FACP, board-certified internal medicine physician and medical oncologist with Southeast Georgia Physician Associates—Hematology & Oncology.

guided breast biopsies, and MRIs for detecting subtle breast cancers.

Help when you need it

In March 2018, the Health System’s commitment to fighting breast cancer was recognized with a generous \$50,000 grant from the Coastal Georgia Affiliate of Susan G. Komen. The grant helps to provide screening and diagnostic breast imaging services to uninsured and low-income patients.



Candice Rook, LPN (left), with Antonio Moran Jr., M.D., FACP

“I now understand how important routine mammograms are. I hope my story touches women of all ages and encourages them to make the decision to get a mammogram.”—Carol Embery

The grant made a difference for Brunswick resident Carol Embery. When a CT scan taken after a car accident revealed a spot on her

breast, she was advised to get a mammogram, but she wanted to heal from the accident first. Unfortunately, by the time Ms. Embery decided to get a mammogram, she no longer had health insurance and was concerned about how she would pay for the screening.

“When I visited the Health System’s Breast Care Center and shared my concerns, Karen Crosby, the breast care navigator, told me about the Susan G. Komen grant,” Ms. Embery recalls. “Karen assured me that the grant would cover all my costs, including surgery and treatment.”

After a biopsy confirmed that the lump was cancer, Ms. Embery underwent surgery, performed by T. Wayne Rentz Jr., M.D., board-certified general surgeon with Southeast Georgia Physician Associates—Brunswick General Surgery. Although she says surgery and treatment for breast cancer can seem scary, she found comfort at the Health System.

“God and positive thinking got me in the right hands,” she says. “From the beginning, the staff made me feel really good, and that is heart-touching to me. It relieved a lot of my stress and anxiety, and I wasn’t as scared. I still have some treatments to get through, but I don’t feel intimidated because everyone at the hospital is so supportive and caring.”

» **For more information** about low- or no-cost mammograms, call the Health System Breast Care Center at **912-466-5235**.

Advances in surgery and radiation oncology mean that surgery for breast cancer is less invasive. “Given the recent advances with sentinel lymph node sampling, we no longer remove all of the axillary lymph nodes in women with breast cancer,” Dr. Moran explains. “And partial breast radiation may be an alternative to traditional whole-breast radiation for certain women.”

The Health System also provides a variety of innovative technologies for breast cancer diagnosis, including digital mammography, 3-D ultrasound, stereotactic and ultrasound-



Make the call You can schedule a mammogram at one of three locations:

Breast Care Center
2500 Starling St., Brunswick
912-466-5235

Medical Plaza-Brunswick
3025 Shrine Rd., Brunswick
912-466-7202

Women’s Imaging-Camden Campus
2000 Dan Proctor Dr., St. Marys
912-576-6190