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## Health Matters: Breast Cancer Support

Triston Sanders - Medical Anchor

Currently there are slightly over two million women living in the U.S. who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. The diagnosis and the battle with breast cancer is often emotionally and physically draining on both the patient and her family.

This Health Matters takes a look at the important role men have in supporting their loved ones through this illness.

The role men play during their loved one's battle with breast cancer is extremely important for her recovery and self-confidence.

Gayle Sandham, a breast cancer patient, says, "He drove back and forth to Tampa to spend the day with me and brought me my favorite coffee. It really meant a lot."

Oncologist Eric Rost says men often have the same response when their loved one is diagnosed with breast cancer.

"In my experience the biggest response from men who's loved ones are suffering from breast cancer is one of fear."

But it is important for men to put their fears aside and learn how to be there for their loved ones both emotionally and physically.

"Come with them to their appointments to experience what's happening to know firsthand, to show that you care. The love and bond is not dependent on your breasts or what your breast's look like, but it's dependent upon you."

Dr. Rost says there is another important role men can play when it comes to the discovery of breast cancer in their partner.

"In many cancers men do find the breast cancers themselves. During examination or intimate moments, they can find something abnormal."

Men should not be afraid to discuss any changes they may feel in their loved one's breast as it could save her life. You can call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 for more information on how to support your loved one through breast cancer.

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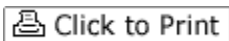
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