

Breast Cancer and Young People (*Interview Transcripts*)

Deborah Oyelowo, Hematology/Oncology APRN, OSF HealthCare

“Once your doctor knows that your mom or your aunt or your grandmother had a form of breast cancer, they will have a scheduled plan for you on when to go depending on risk factors. For example, if it’s your mom, screening typically starts by the time you are 25 to 30 years old. Early screening is the key.” (:24)

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“Every lump needs to be checked out by someone. It could be your primary care doctor. And if that lump is concerning to your primary care doctor, they will send you for a special assessment or they can do an ultrasound. It does not have to be a mammogram, it can be an ultrasound. If that is done and it suggests a mammogram, then we go from there.” (:20)

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“If it’s painful, it could be a boil or an abscess. But if it’s not painful and it’s just a nodule in your underarm, it feels cold, and your arm doesn’t have the same sensation as the other one, have someone check it.” (:12)

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“People ages 20 to 30-years-old are having a later stage diagnosis due to delay in self-exams or assessments. You need to know what you are looking for and what it should feel like. There are a lot of hormonal changes, but if we know what to look out for in self assessments, we can catch it before it’s late.” (:24)

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“If you think there is something wrong and you don’t feel like yourself and someone told you everything looks good and fine, but the swelling is getting bigger or it’s not painful, I don’t think we should wait around. This is why we should continue to see our doctor regularly. But if they are reassuring you that everything is fine, but personally you have a voice in the back of your head telling you to check it out, I would seek a second opinion.” (:28)