

## Mayo Clinic Minute: Breast cancer in Hispanic women in US, importance of screening

### Intro to video:

[Breast cancer](#) can affect all people, regardless of race or gender. It's the second-leading cause of cancer death for women overall. And for Hispanic women in the U.S., it's the leading cause of cancer death, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

There's no one reason for the disparity. There are no genetic differences. But social determinants of health, access to health care, lifestyle, lack of [breast cancer screening](#) and follow-up [care](#) all may play a role in the high mortality rates for this diverse group of women of Hispanic heritage.

[Dr. Carlos Vargas](#), a Mayo Clinic [radiation oncologist](#) says preventive [screening](#) is vital to saving lives.

Video	Audio
	Excluding skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S.
	"And that is still true when we talk about Hispanic women, it is the most common cancer in women of Hispanic origin living in the U.S."
	Dr. Carlos Vargas, a Mayo Clinic radiation oncologist, says reducing cancer deaths starts with increasing preventive screening, like mammograms.
Carlos Vargas, M.D. Radiation Oncology Mayo Clinic	"Breast cancer screening is very important, because it's one of the tools that we have to find cancer when it's still early and it's very curable."
	Screenings aren't the only concern, says Dr. Vargas.
	"We have seen in some studies that minorities, such as Hispanic women, don't tend to do as well with breast cancer. But that's due to the lack of screening, or when breast cancer is found, some Hispanic women don't seek medical treatment."
	Patients can do well with early treatment. For most patients with breast cancer, it often involves a team approach with a medical oncologist, radiation oncologist and a surgeon.
	"With the combination of systemic therapy, different forms of radiation and surgery, the chance of women of being alive with their diagnosis of breast cancer and becoming survivors is extremely high."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Joel Streed.