

The breast cancer awareness programme on Saturday

'Breast cancer knows no gender'

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Calcutta: Breast cancer remains the most common cancer among women, but men are diagnosed with it, too, doctors said at a breast cancer awareness walk on Saturday morning.

Ruby Cancer Centre, a unit of Ruby General Hospital, organised a programme to felicitate breast cancer survivors, followed by a walk to raise awareness about the disease.

"About 2 lakh new breast cancer cases are diagnosed in India every year, according to available reports," said Gautam Mukhopadhyay, surgical oncologist and director of Ruby Cancer Centre.

"About 50 per cent of cases are detected only at advanced stages, making awareness important," he said.

The initiative drew more than 350 participants, including survivors and their families, medical professionals and nursing students.

"Only 15 to 20% of patients come to us in the initial stages, while the rest seek treatment at an advanced stage. If detected early, the outcome of treatment is much better," said Subhasish Datta, chief general manager (operations) of Ruby General Hospital.

"Men, too, are diagnosed with breast cancer," he said.

Painless lumps, skin changes, or alterations in breast shape demand immediate medical examination, a doctor said.