

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mood and Anxiety Disorders Put Cancer Patients At Risk For Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Columbus, OH— Breast cancer patients who have a prior history of mood and anxiety disorders are at a much higher risk of experiencing posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following their diagnosis, new research suggests. **(New study released on May 5, 2008)**

A new study of 74 breast cancer patients at the Ohio State University Medical Center found that 16 percent of women suffered from PTSD 18 months after diagnosis.

"What is unique about breast cancer patients with PTSD is that they have already had this double hit of both anxiety and mood disorders even before they got the diagnosis," said Barbara Andersen, co-author of the study and professor of psychology at Ohio State University.

According to Andersen, depression is the mental health condition that needs the most attention as far as treating breast cancer patients. "That's the direction our research is going, and we are working to develop an intervention to treat cancer patients with depression."

***Freedom from Anxiety Disorders*, hosted by Mental Health America of Franklin County, is a community program with a focus on Effective Coping Skills.**

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 / Featuring C. Alec Pollard, PhD / Columbus State Community College – Columbus State Conference Center.

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For more information, contact Mental Health America of Franklin County at 614-221-1441.

Mental Health America is a private, not-for-profit organization established in 1956 whose mission is to promote mental health through advocacy, education and support services.

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