

Symptoms



Martha Red Willow
[Oglala Sioux]

My first discovery of [a lump] was in 1987 . . . , I never did any self examination . . . , and I was not aware of any type of cancer in our family. I was in my sleep and I rolled over and my hand accidentally hit me and I felt this burning sensation, it was not a normal feeling. And because of . . . family problems... I put my illness on the back burner, I didn't really do anything about it until I would say the end of 1988, then . . . , I went to see a doctor. I went to a clinic here in town for a breast examination and the normal thing was, "you're too young so we really don't think you have it."

I had symptoms . . . for about a year and a half to two years before the actual diagnosis. I . . . noticed some changes in my breast probably around Spring of 1985 and . . . I went to the doctor later that summer. . . . She noticed that there were some changes in my breast and I remember she said something like, "that's interesting, . . . we'll just have to watch it". But never ever gave me any kind of recommendation about coming back in three months or six months and let's take a look at it, never any kind of . . . requirement to do anything beyond sort of what we normally do in a physical exam.



Angela Russell
[Crow]