# Miss. Understood: **COMMON MYTHS ABOUT** WOMEN & HEART DISEASE **HEART DISEASE IS THE #1 KILLER OF WOMEN'**

MYTH #3

MYTH #4

MYTH #5

MYTH #6

MYTH #1 Heart disease is for men; women should worry about cancer. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the U.S., about 1 in 5<sup>1</sup> female deaths each year.

#### MYTH #2 Heart disease only affects older people.

Heart disease affects women of all ages, and reports show that heart attack rates are increasing among women ages 35-54.2

#### I feel fine, so I can't have heart disease.

Women can have a "silent" heart attack and still walk, talk, and work, not realizing they are experiencing critical symptoms.

### I don't have any "typical" symptoms.

Don't ignore unusual episodes of nausea, shortness of breath, dizziness, sweating, unusual fatigue, jaw pain, and upper body pain.

### Women who exercise won't get heart disease.

Family history and lifestyle choices can increase risk even for young, fit and otherwise healthy women.

It runs in my family, so there's nothing I can do about it. Reduce your genetic risk with a balanced diet, exercise, not smoking, and limited alcohol consumption.

### **ARE YOU AT RISK FOR HEART DISEASE?**

Screenings such as a CT Calcium Scoring Scan and at HMHhasHeart.com or call 844-HMH-WELL.



Hackensack Meridian Health

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#### To find a physician, visit HackensackMeridianHealth.org/heartcare, scan the QR code, or call 844-HMH-WELL.



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