

Genetic Science Spotlight

King's College London Discovered A Genetics Breakthrough that Helps to Predict
Whether Breast Cancer Will Spread





Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS) is a non-invasive form of early breast cancer, where there are abnormal cancer cells contained in the milk ducts, accounts for one in 10 breast cancers. However, estimated 50% of DCIS develop to become invasive if left untreated. To date, little had been understood about the inherited genetics of DCIS and its relationship with invasive cancer and therefore all women are offered treatment after diagnosis. In the research published in the journal Breast Cancer Research, Scientists from King's

College London discovered the strongest link between DCIS breast cancer and the risk of it becoming invasive and life-threatening (the invasive DCIS predisposition loci identified include: *SLC4A7*, *ATXN7*, *ZNF365*, *CCND1* and *ESR1*). This is the largest study to assess genetic predisposition in DCIS and the researchers hope to develop a test to assess the risk of disease progression in DCIS patients so we can offer intensive screening and drug treatment for the predisposed individuals and potentially allowing thousands of others to be spared unnecessary treatments in the future. This study also represents strong evidence for a multi-gene panel testing for breast cancer providing more comprehensive and actionable information than screening for only *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*.

https://breast-cancer-research.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13058-016-0675-7

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