

**Govt. Brief –
November, 2006**

ER/PR CASE ANALYSIS

BRIEFING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES: NOVEMBER 23, 2006



Total cases reviewed 1997-August 2005: 2760 cases

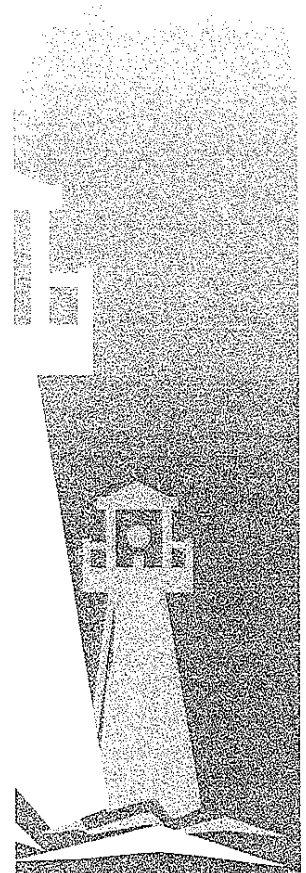
Total retested: 939.

Results obtained and reviewed: 763

- ✓ No change in results and subsequently no change in treatment: 433
 - Confirmed negative: 341
 - Confirmed negative from panel: 28
 - Confirmed positive: 12
 - DCIS: 52
- ✓ No change in results; requires change in treatment as definition of negative has changed: 13
- ✓ Change in results but does not require treatment change: 213
 - No recommendation because they are low risk: 60
 - No recommendation because they are previously treated with Tamoxifen or another aromatase inhibitor: 148
(This group includes a group identified as being potentially impacted: those not placed on Tamoxifen for their original disease, but for subsequent metastatic disease (13))
 - No treatment because they required assessment prior to recommendation: 5
- ✓ Change in results and requires treatment change: 104
 - Recommended for treatment with Tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitor: 96
 - Originally diagnosis revised: 4
 - Originally had a degree of ER positivity but on retesting was negative: 4

Patients who are deceased (176):

- ✓ 101 were retested and results received.
- ✓ There have been 2 retested upon request. The remaining 73 will not be retested unless the families approach us.



CBC News - Here & Now Thursday, November 23, 2006

Jonathan Crowe: Breast cancer survivors want answers about mistakes in a breast cancer screening test. Eastern Health discovered the problem a year and a half ago but they're still now saying what went wrong or how many women got false results. Chris O'Neil-Yates reports.

Chris O'Neil-Yates: The problems originated in a lab in St. John's. Hundreds of women over a decade got what's called a Hormone Receptor Test. It's used to guide the cancer therapy a woman receives. Minnie Hoyles learned last February that the result of her receptor test from 1998 was false.

Minnie Hoyles: It was absolutely devastating and I thought to myself "oh my goodness, what happened, what could have happened that eight years after that somebody is telling me now that a mistake was made."

Chris O'Neil-Yates: After two mastectomies, Hoyles is left with questions. Could an accurate test result mean doctors would have prescribed leading cancer treatment? Will her cancer come back? After it realized there was a problem, Eastern Health sent hundreds of samples to Toronto to be retested. Those results are back. Eastern Health hasn't yet said what went wrong with Hoyles' test and possibly hundreds or others or how many women had false results.

Minnie Hoyles: I think they need to be more upfront and I don't see any reason, at this point, when the whole thing is after coming out that they should be trying to keep back information. It makes no sense to me.

Peter Dawe: This is the type of information that should be made public. Obviously, it's a concern that it's taking up to eighteen months and we still don't have that information being made public.

Chris O'Neil-Yates: Dawe says the lack of information is distressing for breast cancer survivors and their families.

Peter Dawe: What happened? Why was this mistake made, or these series of mistakes? That then leads into what have we done about it now? What has the system done about it to fix it?

Minnie Hoyles: I do have a number of friends who have passed away and I wonder many times, you know, whether they would have died and probably we'll never know if they had been diagnosed right.

Chris O'Neil-Yates: Minnie Hoyles is just one of dozens of women involved in a class action lawsuit against Eastern Health. For weeks we've been asking for an interview with officials there. This afternoon, a spokesperson told us that test results are still being analyzed but that physicians and the corporations legal will provide a briefing within a week or two. Chris O'Neil-Yates, CBC News, St. John's.