

Denise Dunn

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From: Deborah Thomas-Pennell  
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2005 3:15 PM  
To: ExecutiveManagement  
Cc: Heather Predham; Dr. Donald Cook  
Subject: CBC Invu with Breast Cancer patient Oct. 19



101960.doc

Transcript from this am's interview.

-----Original Message-----

From: Media [mailto:media@marqueeinc.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2005 2:47 PM  
To: Deborah Thomas-Pennell; Susan Bonnell; Elizabeth Strange-Hollett;  
Jennifer Deon; Diane Hart  
Subject: 101960

101960

M A R T I N  
M E D I A

3 Job Street  
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6  
(709) 753-2233 Fax (709) 754-3138

## Electronic Media Transcripts

October 19, 2005

Client: Eastern Health Care Corporation  
Source: CBC Morning Show 7:53 A.M. 101960  
Date: October 19, 2005  
Ann: Jeff Gilhooly

Announcer: Last week on the Morning Show we heard concerns that are being raised about a test that is done on people with breast cancer in this province. It's called a hormone receptor test. If the test finds a patient is hormone receptor positive, then he or she may be offered Tamoxifen. It's been shown to increase cancer patients' survival rates. If the patient is negative for hormone receptors, that drug will not be used. The Eastern Health Authority is retesting hundreds of cancer patients dating back to 1997 because it recently found that some of the tests done years ago were wrong. Some patients who were told they were negative were in fact positive. That means they may have missed an opportunity to receive a treatment that could have helped them. Zeta White is a breast cancer survivor in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. She joins me on the line.

Good morning.

Zeta White: Good morning.

Announcer: Just some background here on the test that you had. When did you have it, what did it tell you?

White: Well I was diagnosed with breast cancer about 3.5 years ago. And the testing at the time told me that I was negative for the hormone receptor.

Announcer: What did you think when you heard about the problem with these tests at the Health Sciences Centre here in St. John's?

White: Well my first impression Jeff, because I live here in Goose Bay, was when I heard it in the media was that well it didn't apply to me because I just assumed that my testing was done in our local region. And since then I found out that no it was all done in the St. John's area. And I became very concerned because I did test positive and I'm thinking possibly it was a false negative. I'm sorry I tested negative and it was possibly a false negative.

Announcer: Yes, so possibly you may have been missing out on something here.

White: Exactly.

Announcer: Yeah. Yeah, I imagine a lot of people are in the same position as you. Have you been retested since?

White: I'm not able to find out if or, well I'm on a, a database to be retested, I've been able to find that out from the Eastern Health Authority. But when I'll be retested is still up in the air, of how long this process will take. And that's very concerning for me since it has been 3.5 years and, you know that, that amount of time has passed and now more time will pass.

Announcer: How is your health now?

White: Right now, as far as I'm, I know, I'm cancer free. And you know, but I still have concerns about, again I feel there's this, there's a dark cloud hanging over me again, waiting again for a possible change.

Announcer: Well as far as you understand it now, what benefit would you have had from taking Tomoxiphine?

White: Well the research that I've done personally and I haven't heard any of this from this from a, from a medical perspective is that, you know, anyone who tested positive would be prescribed Tomoxiphine for a period of five years which would greatly reduce the risk for reoccurrence. So it concerns me greatly that if I had been in that category or maybe in that category, you know what would be the options right now?

Announcer: Yeah, lots of questions. So how do you think of how the Eastern Health Authority is handling this then?

White: Well I'm very concerned that patients have to hear it in the media. You know, I heard it in the media. I was never contacted by Eastern Health Authority or by anybody in the medical field to tell me that I was in this group who had to be retested. I mean I had to research that myself and find it out myself. And I still don't know, you know, how long that will take.

Announcer: So what do you think they should do right now?

White: Well I think all patients, everybody who has to be retested, should be contacted, given a timeframe for when this will happen. And also been told if there's a change, whether there's

a change or not, they'll be notified. And if there's a change in their status, you know what, what will be done for them.

Announcer: Yeah. This may result in no change for you. All the worry may be for naught. But it's your health though. You do worry, right?

White: Exactly. You do worry. And with any, you know, diagnosis with breast cancer or any cancer I guess, you know it's always there in the background. But now this just brings it back really to the foreground and you're thinking, you know, I've put this behind me and now it's right there in the forefront again. That, okay maybe there's something else I have to deal with.

Announcer: Appreciate your time this morning. Thank you.

White: Thank you.

Announcer: Alright. Bye now.

White: Bye.

Announcer: I was speaking with Zeta White, she is a breast cancer survivor living in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

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