

Breast cancer treatments more effective now than in the past

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(HealthDay)—Comparison of recurrence and outcome patterns shows that current treatments for breast cancer are more effective than previous therapies, according to research published online Nov. 24 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Rachel J.D. Cossetti, M.D., of the Vancouver Cancer Centre in Canada, and colleagues analyzed patterns of relapse for women with biopsy-proven stage I to stage III breast cancer who were diagnosed between 1986 and 1992 (cohort 1, or C1) or between mid-2004 and 2008 (cohort 2, or C2). Each cohort had 3,589 patients.

The researchers found the following distribution of breast cancer subtypes: estrogen-receptor (ER)-positive/human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative, 70.8 percent; ER-

negative/HER2-negative, 15.8 percent; ER-positive/HER2-positive, 6.9 percent; and ER-negative/HER2-positive, 6.6 percent. In the initial five intervals, differences in hazard rate of relapse (HRR) between the cohorts were greater for HER2-positive and ER-negative/HER2-negative [breast cancer](#). For all disease stages and grades, the HRR decreased in C2 compared with C1. The hazard rate of death also decreased for C2 versus C1 but to a lesser extent.

"Although current treatments are more effective, we still see late relapses in patients with ER-positive tumors and an early peak of recurrence in patients with ER-negative cancers," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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