

## General, central obesity linked to specific breast cancer risk

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(HealthDay)—General and central obesity are associated with breast

cancer risk, with different effects on specific subtypes, according to a study published online Sept. 14 in *The Oncologist*.

Fei Wang, M.D., from the Second Hospital of Shandong University in Jinan, China, and colleagues conducted a case-control study involving 1,439 breast [cancer](#) cases in Northern and Eastern China. For 1,316 cases, both estrogen receptor (ER) and progesterone receptor (PR) statuses were available. The authors examined the correlation between body size-related factors and [breast](#) cancer risk.

The researchers observed a positive correlation for [body mass index](#) (BMI) and waist/hip ratio (WHR) with overall [breast cancer risk](#). BMI was positively correlated with ER+/PR+ and ER-/PR- subtype risks, with a significant association only seen for ER+/PR+ subtypes. There was a positive correlation for WHR with ER-/PR- subtype risk only, independent of BMI. In premenopausal women, BMI was positively associated with ER+/PR+ and ER-/PR- subtypes, while WHR was inversely linked to ER+/PR- and positively linked to ER-/PR- subtype risks. WHR >0.85 correlated with increased risk of ER-/PR- subtype among postmenopausal women.

"These results suggest that different chemoprevention strategies may be appropriate in selected individuals," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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