

Study confirms: Multigene test is a useful decision making tool in breast cancer treatment

December 7 2018

Multigene tests have been used in breast cancer treatment to assess the risk of metastasis for several years. A team at the Breast Cancer Center at the Technical University of Munich's (TUM) Klinikum rechts der Isar has now presented results based on data collected in its routine clinical work. These results show that the multigene test used at the university hospital is indeed helpful in making more targeted use of chemotherapy treatments and thus improves prognosis of breast cancer patients.

Since November 2011, the Gynecological Clinic at Klinikum rechts der Isar has used a multigene test for patients with early hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative breast [cancer](#). Using tissue samples and other clinical indicators, the test helps to determine a patient's risk of metastasis. "Based on the test results, which combine molecularbiological properties of the tumor along with the individual factors of tumor size and the presence of cancer in lymph nodes, doctors decide whether [chemotherapy](#) is recommended in addition to the surgical removal of the tumor followed by anti-hormone treatment," explains Prof. Marion Kiechle, the Director of the Gynecological Clinic. "In case of a low metastasis risk, chemotherapy may place an unnecessary burden on the patient. But in case of a high risk, it may prevent tumors from relapsing later."

At the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium in the USA, one of the world's most important congresses in that field, Dr. Johannes Ettl, Head

Physician of the Gyneco-Oncological Outpatient Clinic, Technical University of Munich, Germany has now presented the results of an independent study not commissioned by a test manufacturer of the test used at the Breast Center.

373 patients tested

For the study, Dr. Ettl and his team tracked 373 [breast](#) cancer patients from the start of initial [treatment](#) and the related multigene test. The test indicated a low risk for 238 patients (63.8%) and a high risk for 135 (36.2%). After a median follow up of 3.5 years, the risk for disease recurrence was twice as high in the high-risk group as in the low-risk group. Similarly, high risk patients were at five-fold increased risk of developing metastases in other organs. The low-risk and high-risk patients who received chemotherapy in addition to anti-hormone tablets had three-year disease free survival rates of 96.6% and 96.3%, respectively. By contrast, for high-risk [patients](#) who did not receive chemotherapy despite the doctors' recommendation based on the [test results](#), the rate was only 91.5%.

"Our health care study has delivered the first data from routine clinical practice indicating that the [test](#) does, in fact, provide useful input when deciding on chemotherapy," says Prof. Kiechle. "Gene signature tests are important tools that help us to make more targeted use of chemotherapy treatments, both by limiting unnecessarily stressful treatments and avoiding the potentially serious consequences of rejecting chemotherapy in case of high metastasis risks."

More information: First prospective outcome data for the clinico-molecular test Endopredict in hormone receptor positive, HER2-negative early breast cancer in clinical routine , [www.abstracts2view.com/sabcs18 ... =SABCS18L_1275&terms](http://www.abstracts2view.com/sabcs18...=SABCS18L_1275&terms)

Provided by Technical University Munich

Citation: Study confirms: Multigene test is a useful decision making tool in breast cancer treatment (2018, December 7) retrieved 7 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-12-multigene-decision-tool-breast-cancer.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.