

Mortality up with depression just before breast cancer diagnosis

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mortality (hazard ratio, 2.00) and breast cancer-specific mortality (hazard ratio, 2.42) among women with late-stage (regional- or distant-stage) breast cancer.

"Women with newly-developed depression before the diagnosis of breast cancer had a modestly but significantly increased risk for death from any cause and for death from [breast](#) cancer at a late stage," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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(HealthDay)—Women with newly-developed depression before a breast cancer diagnosis have a modestly, but significantly, increased risk for death, according to a study published online April 7 in *Cancer*.

Xiaoyun Liang, M.D., Ph.D., from Beijing Normal University, and colleagues used data from the Women's Health Initiative to identify 3,095 women with incident [breast cancer](#) who had measures of [depressive symptoms](#) and antidepressant use before their diagnosis and at year three.

The researchers found that depression at year three before a breast [cancer](#) diagnosis was associated with higher all-cause mortality after adjustments for multiple covariates (hazard ratio, 1.35). For depression at baseline there was no statistically significant association with all-cause mortality or breast cancer-specific mortality, whether or not depression was also present at year three. Newly-developed depression at year three was significantly associated with both all-cause

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