**Effect of Pregnancy after Breast Cancer on Women s' Health.**

**Presented by**

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Introduction

For various reasons women of childbearing age with a diagnosis of breast cancer often want to conceive a child after treatment. Women who suffered from breast cancer are often advised to wait at least two years after treatment before they attempt to conceive. The two year wait is suggested as a guide and is based on anecdotal evidence. The delay is primarily to determine women who may develop early recurrence and to allow the completion of adjuvant therapies. So the aim is to evaluate the effect of pregnancy after breast cancer on women s' health.

The biggest concern for pregnant women with breast cancer is whether or not the pregnancy can endanger their lives or compromise their health. The rise in estrogen levels during pregnancy may act as a trigger for breast cancer. Some treatments for breast cancer are based on neutralizing the activity of estrogens. In principle, there is a chance that the rising estrogens during pregnancy may adversely affect the microscopic metastatic disease and cause significant damage to the health of these women. Three studies have attempted to answer the question of whether pregnancy in women with breast cancer reduces the chances of survival. In all 3 studies no evidence was found where women diagnosed with breast cancer had lower survival rates if when they became pregnant. On the contrary, studies showed that women who gave birth or became pregnant after being diagnosed had a higher survival rate then women who hadn't.

The first study was conducted in Denmark and included over 10,000 women with breast cancer that were diagnosed before the age of 45; 371 (3.6%) of which became pregnant during observation. This study demonstrated a 30% decrease in mortality rates among women who became pregnant, compared to those who experienced a spontaneous abortion, which itself did not change the survival rate.

The second study was conducted in the US and included about 15,000 women with breast cancer diagnosed before age 45. 438 (2.9%) gave birth during follow up. Here too, there was a 46% decrease in mortality among women who gave birth compared to those who had not. However, detailed processing of the data found that women with the following disease characteristics have the highest chance of survival, with no significant correlation to pregnancy: a localized disease, a tumor under 2cm, under the age of 35, and women who received additional treatment to primary treatment. An additional research was conducted in Australia with 2,539 women diagnosed with breast cancer prior to the age of 45, out of which 123 (4.8%) women became pregnant during observation. Also in this study, like in the previous ones, there was a 41% increase in survival rate compared to women who did not become pregnant.