Information Sheet for PROCAS 2 – Predicting Risk of Cancer at Screening

About Prevent Breast Cancer

Prevent Breast Cancer is the only UK charity committed solely to predicting and preventing the disease.

With the only dedicated prevention centre in the country, we work with patients, researchers and leading scientists to discover how to prevent the UK's most common cancer.

We predict – by identifying who is at risk of breast cancer
We prevent – by offering preventative interventions, to **stop** breast cancer before it starts
We protect – our goal is to **shield future generations** from breast cancer

Prevent Breast Cancer seeks to create a breast cancer free future for the next generation. We conduct groundbreaking research into the prediction and prevention of breast cancer and with **only 3.6% of all cancer research being spent on prevention, the work we do is vital.**

Registered charity number: 1109839.

The PROCAS 2 Project: identifying risk and empowering women against breast cancer

Background

Prevent Breast Cancer's pioneering PROCAS research focuses on Predicting the Risk of Cancer at Screening. PROCAS 1 enabled thousands of women to take control of their health by calculating their breast cancer risk at the time of their first mammogram.

Launched in 2009, this was the **UK's largest ever recruiting breast cancer research study** involving **57,000** participants over six years. Information was obtained from each woman before they were screened to determine a risk score for developing breast cancer in the next decade.

Ninety-four per cent of participants asked to be informed of their score, demonstrating the huge level of demand that exists for this information. Once they are made aware of any risk, women are able to take action to reduce it.

How we calculated risk

Prevent Breast Cancer calculated scores by looking at a number of areas including current health, diet and lifestyle choices and hormonal factors such as age at first period, pregnancies and menopause. In addition, our scientists examined breast density (the amount of glandular tissue in ratio to fatty tissue) which is one of the strongest predictors of whether a woman will develop breast cancer. Women with high mammographic density have a four to six-fold increase in breast cancer risk compared to women of the same age with low mammographic density.

The project demonstrates an overwhelming need for the NHS to obtain and analyse this additional information to create a more tailored breast screening programme.

Next steps: PROCAS 2

For our second PROCAS study, Prevent Breast Cancer will conduct research at four screening sites in Greater Manchester. PROCAS 2 will involve a further 18,600 women, whose risk of developing the disease within the next ten years will again be calculated.

We will provide participants with their risk score in just six weeks rather than the one to three years this took previously. This quicker turnaround time will be due to improvements in automation of the risk score and the feedback processing production.

The project will run for three years enabling us to fully assess its potential and identify the impact on patients, NHS staff and related organisations (such as other breast cancer charities).

PROCAS 2 will help achieve Prevent Breast Cancer's goals as we:

Predict who is at greater risk of developing the disease.
Prevent the disease by suggesting risk reducing interventions.
Protect future generations by demonstrating the need for smarter, more tailored screening.

Your contact at Prevent Breast Cancer

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