Most Women With Early Invasive Breast Cancer Survive

The cumulative risk of dying within 5 years of an early invasive breast cancer diagnosis has declined from about 14% in the 1990s to about 5% for women diagnosed between 2010 and 2015, according to data from 512,447 women in England who were treated initially with surgery. Mortality rates were highest during the 5 years after diagnosis before declining with each following 5-year period.

The majority of women had a 5-year mortality risk that fell below 3%. But the chance of dying varied by age, whether the cancer was estrogen receptor positive or negative, and the number of lymph nodes involved, among other factors, and was 20% or higher in about 5% of women.

"[O]ur findings can be used to reassure most women treated for early breast cancer that they are likely to become long term survivors" as well as to identify women with breast cancer with high mortality risk, the researchers wrote in *The BMJ.* – Emily Harris

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Note: Source references are available through embedded hyperlinks in the article text online.