

**Leona Barrington**

**From:** Heather Predham [Heather.Predham@easternhealth.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2006 8:38 AM  
**To:** Oscar Howell; Nebojsa Denic(HCCSJ); Terry Gulliver(HCCSJ); Pam Elliott; Pat Pilgrim; Susan Bonnell; Sharon Smith; Kara Laing  
**Cc:** Nancy Parsons; Leona Barrington  
**Subject:** Another issue with ER/PR

Hello everyone,

██████████ was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999. Her original ER/PR was 30 and 40%. Upon retesting her ER/PR was 0/0. This was rechecked twice by Mount Sinai and still no staining was revealed. The original slides were assessed by pathology and it was found that the original interpretation was accurate. She was one of the four patients that we classified as "retro converters". In other words she original stained positive but now was coming back negative, the opposite of our concern.

She had been treated with Tamoxifen from 1999 until 2004. This was switched to Femara for extended adjuvant therapy. The Femara was discontinued in October 2005 because of side effects.

The panel had much discussion and debate on how best to disclose this information to the client. The original intent was a meeting with the clinical chiefs and someone from QRM but a complicating factor at the time was the media coverage after the DCIS meetings. Upon further review the panel identified that we had earlier discovered another retro converter who was contacted via the most responsible physician, our usual process. Therefore, the day after the panel meeting, September 8, 2006, Kara, on behalf of the panel, wrote Dr. Ahmad to recommend that she remain off the Femara and not receive any further hormonal therapy.

Yesterday afternoon, Nancy received a phone call from ██████████. Apparently, Dr. Ahmad sent the letter to Dr. Wayne Button, the family physician. Dr. Button called ██████████ and gave her the letter. ██████████ called Nancy to get contact information on the group that is suing Eastern Health. (which Nancy declined to give)

I can only assume that Mr. Crosbie will now have another story. I anticipate that he will call for a total retest of all ER/PR results. we did discuss that at the panel level, but there is a documented false positive rate with this test and five out of 962 falls well within that range. Of course, we can revisit this decision.

This entire ER/PR review has been very difficult and drawn out, with constant hard and difficult decisions being made. The only thing making it bearable at all was that we were doing what we had to do to make it right for our patients...we were always "doing the right thing" Personally this, combined with the two situations involving Dr. Ganguly in the past two weeks, has left me totally and absolutely disheartened.

Heather

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*Test gives probability  
 not certainty.*

*many variables  
 not exact science  
 B&W*



- Oct. 19  
Nov.  
- Dec. Nov. 15

- \* Been reviewed
- \* Clinical & Technical reviews.
  - given recommendations.
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