

Denise Dunn

From: Deborah Thomas-Pennell
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2005 10:00 AM
To: Denise Dunn; Dr. Robert Williams
Subject: Here's the EXACT NTV story from the website
Importance: High

The reporter should have said the technology is more "sensitive" (instead of accurate) but we can't put every word in their mouths unfortunately.

Eastern Health re-tests breast cancer samples

by Carolyn Stokes

October 13, 2005

There was no mistake. New, sophisticated technology became available and produced more accurate results. That's basically Eastern Health's explanation for why they are retesting eight years worth of breast cancer samples taken from patients in this province. It's called the Estrogen-Progesterone Receptor Test and it doesn't affect cancer diagnosis, but it does influence treatment. The result is either negative or positive, but there were some "false" negatives discovered. According to Eastern Health, this all came about when a patient went looking for a second opinion. She tested negative here, but in the United States she had a different result. That prompted Eastern Health to launch a full-fledged re-analysis of all negative samples using new, fully-automated equipment purchased last year. The equipment is considered more accurate than the old methodology. All samples will be double-checked by Mount Sinai Hospital in Ontario. Terry Gulliver, Director of the Laboratory Medicine Program at the Health Sciences Centre, says that ninety to ninety-five per cent of patients won't be affected. But for those who are, it means they've likely received the wrong cancer treatments. All testing should be complete in a month and only those affected will be contacted. More information is available at www.easternhealth.ca/erpr.asp or by calling 777-6500.

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"In a perfect world, every dog would have a home and every home would have a dog."