

DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL SELECTED BY NATIONAL BREAST CANCER STUDY

REVOLUTIONARY breast cancer research is being collated at Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Forming part of a national study led by Cancer Research UK, Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester was chosen because of its excellent research and development team and experience in managing breast cancer trials.

The research results gathered at Dorset County Hospital will help protect future generations by detecting hostile genes related to the disease. Previous studies have shown that genes BRCA 1 and 2 are primary indicators of breast cancer, resulting in an 80% risk of breast cancer for women with an altered copy of either of these genes. The new research will search for other genes that reveal an increased risk of breast cancer.

Over 4,000 breast cancer sufferers and 3,000 'control' volunteers will take part in the study across the UK. Volunteers give a small blood test and answer a short questionnaire, all results are then analysed by research teams at St Bartholomew's and Guy's Hospitals in London to identify potential gene risks. Dorset County Hospital will play a major part providing skilled resources and care for patients taking part.

Kelly Kohut, Study Co-ordinator at St Bart's, said: 'We chose Dorset County Hospital due to their reputation and experience treating breast cancer sufferers. Data is being collected at other key hospitals across the country, and we're extremely hopeful the research will detect breast cancer risks in future patients before they become problematic. We've been pleased with the number of female control volunteers taking part and are actively seeking more.'

Volunteers interested in becoming control patients can take part by contacting Ms Kohut at St Barts Hospital on 020 7882 8489. She will send the short questionnaire details; blood tests can then be taken at local GP surgeries using the posted form. Please do not contact Dorset County Hospital direct.

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