

Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool Evaluation

Summary of Responses

Background

The Breast Cancer Risk Assessment tool is a computer program that allows physicians and others to estimate a woman's lifetime risk of developing invasive breast cancer. The Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool was promoted and distributed via NCI's cancerTrials Web site; trade, consumer, and health professional media; and voluntary and advocacy organizations.

The approximately 18,000 copies of the tool (each included the survey from the previous pages) were sent to:

Cancer patients	(46 percent)
Clinicians	(40 percent)
Scientists	(4 percent)
Media	(1 percent)
Other	(9 percent)

Because the majority of the survey's respondents were doctors and other clinicians, the findings do not reflect the above distribution.

Findings

These findings are based upon a sample of 125 surveys returned:

- Almost all respondents (97 percent) said they would recommend the tool to others.
- Most respondents (84 percent) had used the tool in their practice. For those who had not, it was usually because the person was not a physician or was retaining it for personal use.
- An overwhelming majority found the assessment tool easy to use (99 percent), appropriate in length (97 percent), and understandable (99 percent). A strong majority found the tool useful in discussing breast cancer risk with patients (94 percent).
- Almost three-quarters of respondents found the tool to be complete (68 percent). A substantial number of respondents who did not find the tool to be complete (32 percent) provided comments and suggestions to support their opinions. In general, respondents suggested that the tool:
 - Determine whether treatment with tamoxifen was indicated or not
 - Include risk information relative to a woman's menopausal status
 - Include risk information for patients previously diagnosed with breast cancer

Conclusions

Based upon the feedback, it appears that health care providers are using the tool and generally find it easy to use, appropriate in length, understandable, and helpful in discussing breast cancer risk with their patients. A substantial number of respondents (32 percent) did not find the tool to be complete, mainly because they felt it did not provide enough information about other risk factors that may play a role in calculating a patient's individualized risk estimate of invasive breast cancer.