

Summary of Breast Cancer Risks and Protection

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Given what is known of breast physiology, we can conclude that the following factors are protective, or decrease the likelihood that a woman will develop breast cancer:

- Full-term pregnancy or pregnancy lasting longer than 32 weeks
- Multiparity (more than one full-term pregnancy)
- Short period (“susceptibility window”) between menarche and first full-term pregnancy
- Full-term pregnancy soon after abortion or second-trimester miscarriage
- Breastfeeding

The following factors increase the probability of a woman developing breast cancer:

- Nulliparity (childlessness)
- Long span of time (“susceptibility window”) between menarche and first full-term pregnancy
- Second-trimester miscarriage (spontaneous abortion after 13 weeks of pregnancy)
- Premature delivery before 32 weeks of pregnancy
- Induced abortion
- Induced abortions or second-trimester miscarriages before first full-term pregnancy
- Repeated induced abortions or second-trimester miscarriages

pages 1—133 of this paper can be read in their entirety by clicking on the following link:
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