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BAG-1 can predict survival from breast cancer

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Measuring tumour levels of the protein BAG-1 can predict which women with localised breast cancer are at greatest risk of metastases, according to a paper in the February [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#). Bruce Turner, from [Thomas Jefferson University](#) in Philadelphia, and colleagues studied 122 women with early stage breast cancer. They analysed paraffin blocks of excised tumors and found that cytosolic immunostaining for BAG-1 - a protein that inhibits apoptosis - was greater in 79 of 122 invasive breast cancers.

Interestingly, 82% of women who had tumours that contained high levels of BAG-1 had a longer survival time and were still alive 10 years after diagnosis, compared with 42% of women whose tumours contained low levels of the protein. No other biomarkers tested reached statistical significance for predicting survival (*J Clin Oncol* 2001, **19**:992-1000).

Patients with tumours containing low levels of BAG-1 may benefit from more aggressive cancer treatments early in the course of the disease.

References

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2. Thomas Jefferson University, [<http://www.tju.edu/>]