

Most Elderly Breast Cancer Patients Receive Unnecessary Radiation

Nearly two-thirds of elderly breast cancer patients with early-stage breast cancer received radiation treatment even though research has shown that it does not improve five-year recurrence or survival rates, according to a Duke University study published in the journal *Cancer*. The data shows that doctors may be resistant to change. "Our findings highlight the fact that it may be challenging for practitioners to incorporate clinical trial data that involves omitting a treatment that was previously considered standard of care," lead researcher Dr. Rachel Blitzblau said. "If a treatment regimen has been working well, and data are new, there can be concern that de-escalation of treatment may ultimately be shown to worsen outcomes."