

# Potential new surgical options for women with multiple ipsilateral breast cancer

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Dr. Kari Rosenkranz leads multi-institutional study that opens new surgical options for women with more than one site of cancer in a single breast. Credit: Mark Washburn

A new multi-institutional clinical trial compared outcomes of women with multiple ipsilateral breast cancer, or more than one site of disease in the same breast, who underwent breast-conserving surgery, with outcomes of those who converted to mastectomy. Out of 198 eligible women in the trial, 184 (92.9%) successfully completed breast-conserving surgery, 134 of those with a single operation. These findings have just been published online first in *Annals of Surgical Oncology*.

Advancements in [breast cancer](#) care allow for improved control over local disease in patients undergoing [breast-conserving surgery](#). Other advancements such as more sensitive imaging techniques also now result in higher detection rates, which opens up new questions for both [breast cancer patients](#) and clinicians about how to best manage disease.

The question was approached in a new collaborative, multi-institutional study conducted by

the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology and led by Kari Rosenkranz, MD, a surgical oncologist and medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Program at Dartmouth's Norris Cotton Cancer Center and associate professor of surgery at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. "Our study is the first prospective study to assess the feasibility and safety of breast conservation in women with two or three malignant lesions in a single breast," says Rosenkranz. The endpoints measured include local recurrence at 5 years, as well as rates of surgical conversion to mastectomy or second surgeries due to positive margins (malignant tissue around the disease site remaining after surgery).

Based on retrospective studies from previous decades, mastectomy has been, and is still, the predominant surgical treatment option for women with multiple ipsilateral breast [cancer](#). These studies, from an era prior to modern technology and multimodality breast cancer care, showed higher rates of local recurrence, ranging from 23-40%, for women in this category who underwent breast-conserving therapy.

This new study finds that for the majority of women enrolled in the trial, 92.9%, breast-conserving surgery is technically feasible. "Results show an acceptably low rate of conversion to mastectomy, and most [women](#) successfully achieving breast conservation with negative margins in a single operation," says Rosenkranz. "These data may inform conversations between patients and surgeons regarding management of multiple ipsilateral breast cancer."

Next steps include assessment of the primary study end point, which is local recurrence rates, as well as additional secondary endpoints including breast cosmetic improvement and appropriateness of radiation fields in this patient population.

**More information:** Kari M. Rosenkranz et al, The Feasibility of Breast-Conserving Surgery for

Multiple Ipsilateral Breast Cancer: An Initial Report  
from ACOSOG Z11102 (Alliance) Trial, *Annals of  
Surgical Oncology* (2018). DOI:  
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