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## Abortion and Breast Cancer Risk

The most up-to-date scientific research suggests that abortion does not influence a woman's risk for breast cancer.

- [What is abortion?](#)
- [Why has abortion been studied in connection with breast cancer?](#)
- [Research studies on abortion and breast cancer risk](#)
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### What is abortion?

An abortion happens when a pregnancy is ended before it reaches full term.

There are different types of abortion:

- **Spontaneous abortion:** The loss of a fetus before 5 months (20 weeks) into the pregnancy. Most people call this type of abortion a **miscarriage**. It is often caused by problems with the fetus or problems in the mother's body.
- **Stillborn birth (stillbirth):** The death of a fetus after 5 months' pregnancy. This death happens when the fetus is still in the uterus (womb).
- **Induced abortion:** A medical procedure done to end a pregnancy. It is what most people think of when they hear "abortion."

Researchers have looked at how all types of abortion might affect a woman's chance of getting breast cancer later in life.



abortion may raise a woman's risk for breast cancer. The best scientific evidence does not support a link between abortion and breast cancer risk.

## Hyperlinks

1. [www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/risk-and-prevention/lifestyle-related-breast-cancer-risk-factors.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/risk-and-prevention/lifestyle-related-breast-cancer-risk-factors.html)
2. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7220471/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7220471/)
3. [nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/24950/the-safety-and-quality-of-abortion-care-in-the-united-states](http://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/24950/the-safety-and-quality-of-abortion-care-in-the-united-states)

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