



**GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
TWENTY FIRST CENTURY SCIENCE
BIOLOGY A**

A223/02/INS

Unit 3: Ideas in Context plus B7
(Higher Tier)

INSERT

**Friday 12 June 2009
Morning**

Duration: 1 hour



MODIFIED LANGUAGE

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- This insert contains the article required to answer question 1.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- This document consists of 4 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Read the article about breast cancer and use it to answer question 1.

Wide hips increase risk of breast cancer

Scientists have found that mothers with wide hips give birth to female babies who are more likely to develop breast cancer later in life.

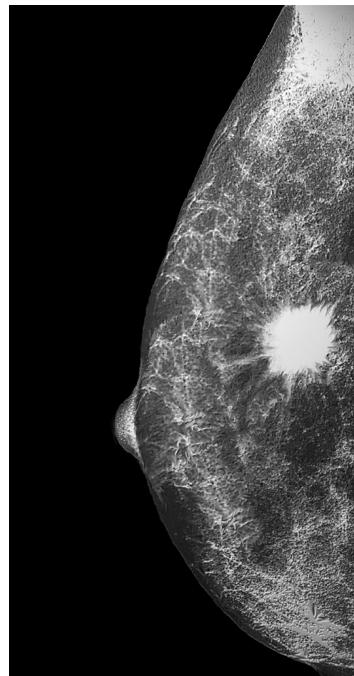
The scientists' research involved six thousand women. The scientists found that babies of women with wide hips are 3 times more at risk of developing breast cancer. The risk increases to 7 times if the pregnancy lasts for longer than normal term and the babies have older brothers and sisters.

The hip width is the distance from one hip bone across to the opposite hip bone. This is called the 'intercristal diameter'. The scientists found that an intercristal diameter of more than 30cm was a wide hip. A baby's risk of developing breast cancer later in life increased by 3 times if their mother had wide hips. This risk factor increased even more if the pregnancy was longer than normal term.

Scientists think that this is linked to the level of the hormone oestrogen in the mother's body during pregnancy. It is thought that high levels of oestrogen in the blood at the beginning and end of pregnancy can cause changes in the immature breast tissue of the developing fetus. Women with wide hips produce more oestrogen, so their babies are exposed to higher levels of the hormone.

Doctors have used a synthetic oestrogen for many years. It has been given to women who were at risk of having a miscarriage. Using synthetic oestrogen doubled the risk of their babies getting breast cancer later in life.

Scientists are hopeful that special drugs will be developed to lower oestrogen levels now that these links are understood. The drugs could be given to pregnant women whose babies are at risk. This would be a major breakthrough in the prevention of breast cancer.



X-ray of breast showing
cancerous tissue



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