

[Skip to main content](#)



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Program on
Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors

SPRECHER
INSTITUTE
for Comparative
Cancer Research

Biology of Cancer and the Breast

Frequently Asked Questions

■ Question

Is breast cancer caused by a virus?

■ Answer

Some types of cancer *are* associated with viruses. Scientists are interested in whether certain viruses affect the risk of breast cancer. We do not have any conclusive information about viruses and breast cancer.

Scientists are looking for DNA sequences of viruses in human breast tumors. So far, they have not found strong evidence for a cause and effect relationship between a specific virus and human breast cancer. See *The Ribbon*, [Vol. 5, No. 3](#), Fall 2000, for a discussion about the possible role of viruses in breast cancer.

Answered by: [Suzanne Snedeker, Ph.D.](#)

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[Return to topic list](#)

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