

What Do Women Lose Without Proven *Breast Cancer Research?*



Fighting breast cancer has depended on years of careful research that include animal studies and rigorous scientific standards. From identifying the hormones that drive breast cancer to developing today's targeted therapies, breakthroughs come from these proven methods that help researchers understand how breast cancer grows, identify treatment targets, and test new therapies before they reach patients.

See the advances women and families depend on today – and the breakthroughs still at stake.



Tamoxifen

Detailed studies in animals showed that tamoxifen blocks the effects of estrogen and lowers the chance of breast cancer reoccurring, turning it into one of the most widely used breast cancer treatments in the world.



HER2 and Herceptin

The HER2 gene, now central to modern breast cancer treatment, was first identified as a cancer-driving gene in animals. Mouse models were later used to prove that targeting HER2 with the drug trastuzumab, known as Herceptin, could shrink tumors.



Aromatase Inhibitors

A researcher at the University of Maryland developed and tested aromatase inhibitors in mice, comparing them directly to tamoxifen, long before these drugs became a standard treatment for hormone-driven breast cancers.



Understanding How Breast Cancer Spreads

Animal models have helped researchers study how breast cancer cells grow, resist treatment, and spread to other parts of the body, insights that continue to shape new treatment strategies.



The Next Generation of Breast Cancer Treatment

As breast cancer research advances, animal studies remain part of the broader toolkit researchers need alongside laboratory science and clinical trials to test promising new therapies and improve survival for people diagnosed with the disease.



“Animal research is invaluable for tackling some of the most confounding human diseases, including neurodegenerative conditions, cancer, metabolic disorders, cardiovascular disease, and emerging infections.”

Harvard Medical School

Congress does not need to choose between innovation and safety.

As policymakers consider the future of breast cancer research, the lesson is simple: proven research methods should not be pushed aside before reliable alternatives are fully validated. For breast cancer, that means protecting tools like animal studies that researchers still need to understand the disease, test treatments, and get better options to patients.



Protect the proven research methods advancing better treatments for American families facing breast cancer.

 **Cure Coalition**

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