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**Article:**

Kramer, I, Hooning, MJ, Mavaddat, N et al. (264 more authors) (2020) Breast cancer polygenic risk score and contralateral breast cancer risk. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 107 (5). pp. 837-848. ISSN 0002-9297

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2020.09.001>

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# Breast cancer polygenic risk score and contralateral breast cancer risk

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1 **Abstract**

2 Previous research has shown that polygenic risk scores (PRS) can be used to stratify women  
3 according to their risk of developing primary invasive breast cancer. This study aimed to  
4 evaluate the association between a recently validated PRS of 313 germline variants (PRS<sub>313</sub>)  
5 and contralateral breast cancer (CBC) risk. We included 56,068 women of European ancestry  
6 diagnosed with first invasive breast cancer from 1990 onwards with follow-up from the Breast  
7 Cancer Association Consortium. Metachronous CBC risk (N=1,027) according to the distribution  
8 of the PRS<sub>313</sub> was quantified using Cox regression analyses. We assessed PRS<sub>313</sub> interaction  
9 with age at first diagnosis, family history, morphology, ER-, PR-, and HER2-status, and  
10 (neo)adjuvant therapy. In Asian studies, with limited follow-up, CBC risk associated with PRS<sub>313</sub>  
11 was assessed using logistic regression for 340 women with CBC compared with 12,133 women  
12 with unilateral breast cancer. Higher PRS<sub>313</sub> was associated with increased CBC risk: hazard  
13 ratio per standard deviation (SD)=1.25 (95%CI=1.18-1.33) for Europeans, and an OR per  
14 SD=1.15 (95%CI=1.02-1.29) for Asians. The absolute lifetime risks of CBC, accounting for  
15 death as competing risk, were 12.4% for European women at the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile and 20.5% at  
16 the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the PRS<sub>313</sub>. We found no evidence of confounding by, or interaction with  
17 patient characteristics, characteristics of the primary tumor, or treatment. The C-index for the  
18 PRS<sub>313</sub> alone was 0.563 (95%CI=0.547-0.586). In conclusion, the PRS<sub>313</sub> is an independent  
19 factor associated with CBC risk, and may be incorporated in CBC risk prediction models to help  
20 improve stratification of patients and optimize surveillance and treatment strategies.

## 21 **Introduction**

22 Due to the high incidence of breast cancer and improving survival, an increasing number of  
23 breast cancer survivors are at risk of developing contralateral breast cancer (CBC). The 10-year  
24 cumulative incidence of CBC is ~4%<sup>1, 2</sup>, however estimates vary widely depending on factors  
25 such as germline genetics, family history, and (neo)adjuvant systemic therapy for the first breast  
26 cancer<sup>3</sup>. The risk of developing CBC is particularly high in women carrying rare mutations in  
27 certain genes including *BRCA1*, *BRCA2*, and *CHEK2*, with approximately two- to fourfold higher  
28 risks reported compared with non-carriers<sup>3</sup>.

29  
30 Recently, genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified multiple common germline  
31 variants that are associated with first primary breast cancer risk<sup>4, 5</sup>. These are associated with  
32 small differences in risk individually, but their combined effects can be summarized in a  
33 polygenic risk score (PRS), which has been shown to stratify women according to their risk of  
34 developing breast cancer<sup>6-9</sup>. Using a large GWAS dataset from the Breast Cancer Association  
35 Consortium (BCAC), we previously developed and validated a 313-variant PRS (PRS<sub>313</sub>) among  
36 women of European descent. In independent prospective studies, this PRS<sub>313</sub> predicted the risk  
37 of primary invasive breast cancer with an odds ratio (OR) per standard deviation (SD) of 1.61  
38 (95% confidence interval (95%CI)=1.57-1.65)<sup>7</sup>. The PRS<sub>313</sub> has also been externally validated  
39 using the UK Biobank cohort.

40  
41 The aim of the current study was to evaluate the association between PRS<sub>313</sub> and CBC risk,  
42 using data from BCAC. Other studies have shown associations between risk of CBC and both a  
43 67-variant PRS<sup>10</sup> and individual variants<sup>11</sup>, but not yet with PRS<sub>313</sub>, the most extensively  
44 validated PRS. Further, the data-set currently evaluated is larger than those previously tested.  
45 We carried out two types of analyses. We conducted a cohort study among studies of European  
46 ancestry women with follow-up data available, and performed Cox regression analyses to



47 estimate hazard ratios (HRs) for CBC. Potential confounding and interaction with patient  
48 characteristics, characteristics of the primary tumor, or treatment were tested. In addition, to  
49 directly compare the OR reported for PRS<sub>313</sub> and first breast cancer, we selected case-case  
50 series and performed logistic regression analyses comparing the PRS<sub>313</sub> distribution in women  
51 with CBC versus those with unilateral breast cancer. These analyses were conducted  
52 separately in European and Asian women (follow-up was too limited to perform a cohort study  
53 for the Asian population).

## 54 **Material and Methods**

### 55 **Study subjects**

#### 56 *Case-case series*

57 We selected women who were diagnosed with breast cancer and women without any diagnosis  
58 of breast cancer from the BCAC including all women of European ancestry, based on  
59 genotyping data, selecting only those studies which reported on CBC (62 studies) (Figure S1A,  
60 Table S1-S2). BCAC database version freeze 12 was used. All women diagnosed with invasive  
61 breast cancer as a first cancer were included in the analysis; the small number of tumors with  
62 unknown invasiveness were considered invasive (Table S2). In the case-case series, a CBC  
63 was defined as a breast cancer (in situ or invasive) in the contralateral breast irrespective of the  
64 time since the first breast cancer. The case-case series comprised 81,000 women with  
65 unilateral breast cancer, 3,607 women with CBC, and 62,830 women without any diagnosis of  
66 breast cancer (Figure S1A). We also compared unilateral breast cancers to women without any  
67 diagnosis of breast cancer to reproduce earlier published estimates<sup>7</sup> in our set of studies with  
68 information available on CBC.

69

70 We selected for a separate analysis women of Asian ancestry of the BCAC data comprising  
71 12,133 women with unilateral breast cancer, 340 women with CBC, and 13,398 women without  
72 any diagnosis of breast cancer from eight studies (Figure S1B, Table S2).

73

#### 74 *Cohort*

75 In the cohort we used metachronous CBC as the outcome, defined as a breast cancer in the  
76 contralateral breast (in situ or invasive) diagnosed at least three months after the first breast  
77 cancer. We used a cut-off of three months to increase the likelihood that these CBCs represent  
78 true second primary tumors rather than metastases or synchronous bilateral tumors. We  
79 selected all women diagnosed with breast cancer from the European case-case series and

80 excluded four studies that did not provide follow-up information on vital status (Figure S1A). We  
81 did not include Asian women since follow-up was too limited in these studies. We additionally  
82 excluded 6,207 women with no follow-up and 2,208 women who developed synchronous CBC,  
83 distant metastasis, or who died or last known to be alive within three months after the first  
84 breast cancer diagnosis. Since BCAC also included prevalent cases, we excluded 3,796 women  
85 who developed CBC or were censored before study entry. The case-case series included  
86 women diagnosed between 1947 and 2018. In the cohort, we excluded 2,235 women who were  
87 diagnosed with their first breast cancer before 1990 or who had missing year of first diagnosis.  
88 We restricted to women diagnosed from 1990 onwards so that diagnostic procedures and  
89 treatment would be more representative of current practice. Moreover, clinico-pathological,  
90 treatment and follow-up data were more complete after 1990. In addition, we excluded 16  
91 studies (9,783 women) without information about metachronous CBC events (Figure S1A). After  
92 these exclusions, the cohort for this analysis comprised data from 42 studies, including 56,068  
93 women with invasive breast cancer among whom 1,027 metachronous CBC occurred (Table  
94 S2).

95  
96 All individuals provided written informed consent, and all studies were approved by the relevant  
97 institutional review boards. BCAC data were centrally harmonized and cleaned in  
98 communication with the study data managers and principal investigators. Data collection for  
99 individual studies is described in Table S1.

100

#### 101 *UK biobank cohort*

102 We performed a secondary analysis of the association between the overall breast cancer  
103 PRS<sub>313</sub> and risk of second breast cancer among 10,567 women in the UK biobank cohort. For  
104 details see Supplement UK biobank.

105

## 106 **Genotyping and PRS**

107 DNA samples from participants were genotyped using the iCOGS array<sup>12; 13</sup> or the OncoArray<sup>4;</sup>  
108 <sup>14</sup>, with genotypes for variants not on the arrays estimated by imputation<sup>4; 13</sup>. The PRS<sub>313</sub> was  
109 calculated as a weighted sum of the minor allele dosages; the variant selection and weights are  
110 as given by Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup>. We also calculated estimates for a previously published PRS<sub>77</sub><sup>6</sup>,  
111 and estrogen receptor (ER)-specific PRSs (ER-positive PRS<sub>313</sub> and ER-negative PRS<sub>313</sub>)<sup>7</sup>. The  
112 ER-specific PRSs were constructed by defining subtype-specific weights for the 313 variants  
113 using a hybrid approach<sup>7</sup>. Variants and corresponding coefficients used to construct the PRS  
114 are shown in Table S3. We standardized the PRS in our analyses by dividing it by the SD of the  
115 PRS of the controls (PRS<sub>77</sub> SD=0.45; PRS<sub>313</sub> SD=0.61; ER-positive PRS<sub>313</sub> SD=0.65; ER-  
116 negative PRS<sub>313</sub> SD=0.59) exactly as was done in the analyses of the PRS and first breast  
117 cancer risk<sup>6; 7</sup>. This allows a direct comparison of the magnitude of the CBC relative risk  
118 estimation to that of the first breast cancer.

119

120 For samples genotyped with both OncoArray and iCOGS array (9,071 samples), OncoArray  
121 data were used in preference as the imputation quality was generally higher. The intraclass  
122 correlation coefficient (ICC) between the PRS derived from the two platforms was 0.99  
123 (95%CI=0.99-0.99) for the PRS<sub>77</sub>, and 0.96 (95%CI=0.95-0.96) for PRS<sub>313</sub> (Figure S2). Given  
124 the high correlation between the two platforms, PRS measures from both platforms were used  
125 in the analyses without adjustment.

126

## 127 **Statistical analysis**

### 128 *Cohort*

129 The primary outcome in the cohort was the development of metachronous CBC. Cox  
130 proportional hazards models were used to estimate HRs for metachronous CBC risk by PRS,  
131 stratified by country. Since previous studies have shown that age at first breast cancer

132 diagnosis is an important predictor of CBC<sup>3</sup>, the analyses were performed with attained age as  
133 the time scale. Time at risk started three months after the first breast cancer diagnosis and  
134 ended at the age of CBC diagnosis, distant metastasis (where available), death, or end of  
135 follow-up, whichever came first. For patients that had a study entry more than three months  
136 after first breast cancer diagnosis, follow-up started at the age of study entry. We also  
137 performed a fixed-effect meta-analysis of country-specific effects using the STATA command  
138 *metan*. We performed a fixed-effect meta-analysis over a random-effect meta-analysis since  
139 there was no evidence for heterogeneity in effect sizes between countries (I-squared=0%,  
140 Figure S3). For some analyses, only invasive CBC was used as the outcome; in these analyses  
141 we censored on in situ CBC. Separate analyses were conducted for ER-positive CBC (censored  
142 on ER-negative- and ER-unknown CBC) and ER-negative CBC (censored on ER-positive- and  
143 ER-unknown CBC).

144  
145 We evaluated the linearity of the association between PRS<sub>313</sub> per unit SD and CBC risk using  
146 restricted cubic splines with three knots. There was no evidence for violation of the linearity  
147 assumption. Therefore, in the main analysis, the PRS<sub>313</sub> was treated as a continuous covariate,  
148 and estimated the HR per unit SD of the PRS<sub>313</sub>. Violation of the proportional hazard assumption  
149 was assessed by inspection of the Schoenfeld residuals<sup>15</sup>. As a second analysis, we used the  
150 per SD log HR of the PRS<sub>313</sub> to calculate the predicted HR at different percentiles of the PRS<sub>313</sub>,  
151 compared to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Third, the PRS<sub>313</sub> was categorized into percentile groups (0<sup>th</sup> to  
152 10<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> to 40<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> to 80<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> to 100<sup>th</sup>) to illustrate the  
153 differences between PRS<sub>313</sub> subgroups, with the middle quintile (40<sup>th</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup>) as the reference.

154  
155 We also performed multivariable Cox regression analyses to determine whether the log HR of  
156 CBC risk by PRS changed when adjusting for year of first breast cancer diagnosis, family  
157 history of breast cancer in a first degree relative, and several clinical characteristics of the first

158 breast cancer such as nodal status, tumor size, morphology, ER-, progesterone receptor (PR)-  
159 and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-status, (neo)adjuvant chemotherapy,  
160 adjuvant endocrine therapy, and radiotherapy. These analyses were performed in all patients, a  
161 complete case set (excluding patients with unknown values for the covariates), and in a set  
162 excluding studies oversampling cases with family history. Potential effect modification of the  
163 PRS<sub>313</sub> effect by the same variables was evaluated by fitting interaction terms in different  
164 models using complete case sets, including the standardized PRS<sub>313</sub>, modifier, and interaction.

165  
166 The discriminative ability of different models; ([model 1] PRS<sub>313</sub> alone, [model 2] other risk  
167 factors (the adjustment variables from the multivariable Cox regression analyses), [model 3]  
168 PRS<sub>313</sub> + other risk factors) was calculated using Harrell's C-index<sup>16</sup>. Since no standard  
169 performance measures are currently available to account for left-truncated follow-up time (*i.e.*,  
170 to start analyses at age at study entry), we used time since first breast cancer as the time scale  
171 to calculate the C-index.

### 172 173 *Absolute risks*

174 We followed the procedure as previously described<sup>17</sup>. Absolute risks of developing CBC at  
175 PRS<sub>313</sub> percentiles were calculated using the estimated log HRs per SD from the breast cancer  
176 cohort (BCAC) under the log-linear model, assuming the PRS is normally distributed. The  
177 PRS<sub>313</sub>- and age-specific incidences were constrained to the age-specific CBC incidences from  
178 women diagnosed with a first invasive breast cancer in the period 2003-2010 from the  
179 Netherlands Cancer Registry (NCR)<sup>1</sup>. The age-specific CBC incidences were calculated overall  
180 and for age-specific groups, censoring on death and distant metastasis. We used data from the  
181 NCR since this registry has complete coverage of all newly diagnosed cancers in the  
182 Netherlands. The NCR cohort included all females aged  $\geq 18$  years and follow-up for second  
183 cancers was complete until February 1, 2016<sup>1</sup>. We then applied the competing risk of dying on

184 the absolute CBC risks. The absolute CBC risk ( $AR_g$ ) by age  $t$  in PRS<sub>313</sub> category  $g$ , taking into  
185 account the competing risk of dying was calculated by:

186

$$AR_g(t) = \sum_{u=0}^{t-1} \mu_g(u)S_g(u)S_m(u)$$

187 Where  $\mu_g(t)$  is the CBC incidence associated with PRS<sub>313</sub> category  $g$ ,  $S_g(t)$  the probability of  
188 being free of CBC to age  $t$ , and  $S_m(t)$  the probability of surviving to age  $t$ .

189

#### 190 *Case-case series*

191 For the case-case series (European and Asian), logistic regression models were used to  
192 estimate the ORs for CBC risk (comparing with unilateral breast cancer) and for unilateral breast  
193 cancer risk (comparing with women without any diagnosis of breast cancer) associated with  
194 PRS<sub>313</sub>. All analyses were adjusted for age and country (Table S1). For all unilateral- and  
195 contralateral breast cancer patients we used age at first breast cancer diagnosis, and for  
196 women without any diagnosis of breast cancer we used age at baseline questionnaire.

197

198 For direct comparison with the estimate reported for PRS<sub>313</sub> and first breast cancer, we also  
199 performed logistic regression analyses in the same BCAC study participants included in the  
200 validation of the association between PRS<sub>313</sub> and first breast cancer risk<sup>7</sup>. This validation set  
201 comprised a subsample from 24 studies and included 3,781 women with unilateral breast  
202 cancer, 94 women with CBC, and 3,753 women without any diagnosis of breast cancer (Table  
203 S2). For this analysis, we adjusted for 10 principal components, in line with Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup>.

204

205 For European women who had follow-up time available more than three months after the first  
206 breast cancer diagnosis, a sensitivity analysis was performed for metachronous CBC (1,702  
207 CBCs). We also did a separate analysis for invasive CBC (N=3,246), by excluding CBC in situ.

208

209 All P-values are two sided; tests with  $P < .05$  are referred to as statistically significant. Analyses  
210 were performed using STATA, version 13.1 (StataCorp) and R version 3.3.2.



211 **Results**

212 *European (cohort) Cox regression analyses*

213 The cohort included 56,068 women diagnosed with first invasive breast cancer with 1,027  
214 metachronous CBC events. Median follow-up was 8.4 years. Patient, tumor, and treatment  
215 characteristics are summarized in Table S4.

216

217 The associations between the different PRSs and CBC risk are shown in Table 1. The HR for  
218 CBC per SD of PRS<sub>313</sub> was 1.25 (95%CI=1.18-1.33). For comparison, the HR per SD for PRS<sub>77</sub>  
219 was 1.21 (95%CI=1.14-1.29). Women within the 0<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and the 90<sup>th</sup> to 100<sup>th</sup> percentile of the  
220 PRS<sub>313</sub> had 0.59-fold (95%CI=0.45-0.78) and 1.38-fold (95%CI=1.13-1.69) risks of CBC,  
221 respectively, compared with women within the 40<sup>th</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup> percentile (Figure 1, Table S5). The  
222 predicted HRs of CBC for women at the 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the PRS<sub>313</sub> were 0.75 and  
223 1.33, respectively, compared to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (Figure 1). Since we observed evidence of  
224 departure from the proportional hazards assumption ( $P=0.02$ )<sup>15</sup>, we also calculated HRs  
225 stratified for follow-up duration (<five and ≥five years). The HR by SD of the PRS<sub>313</sub> was 1.21  
226 (95%CI=1.10-1.32) for CBC diagnosed ≤five years after first breast cancer diagnosis (CBC  
227 N=428), and 1.28 (95%CI=1.18-1.38) for CBC diagnosed >five years after first diagnosis (CBC  
228 N=599).

229

230 The HR per SD of PRS<sub>313</sub> for ER-positive invasive CBC was 1.38 (95%CI=1.23-1.55), compared  
231 to a HR per SD of the ER-positive PRS<sub>313</sub> of 1.37 (95%CI=1.22-1.54) (Table 1). For ER-negative  
232 invasive CBC, the HR per SD was 0.92 (95%CI=0.75-1.12) for PRS<sub>313</sub> and 1.06 (95%CI=0.86-  
233 1.30) for the ER-negative PRS<sub>313</sub>.

234

235 Sensitivity analysis using the overall PRS<sub>313</sub> showed a HR per SD of 1.24 (95%CI=1.16-1.32) for  
236 invasive CBC risk. When we used time since first breast cancer as the time scale, we found

237 similar results (HR per SD=1.25, 95%CI=1.18-1.33). Meta-analysis of country-specific effects  
238 showed a HR per SD of 1.25 (95%CI=1.18-1.33) for CBC risk by PRS<sub>313</sub> (Figure S3).

239  
240 The association between the PRS<sub>313</sub> and CBC risk did not change when adjusting for patient,  
241 tumor, and treatment characteristics, nor when excluding studies oversampling cases with a  
242 family history (Table S6). When considering potential modifiers of the effect of the PRS<sub>313</sub> on  
243 CBC risk (Table 2), we found that the HR was the lowest in women aged <40 years at first  
244 breast cancer diagnosis (HR per SD=1.13; 95%CI=0.98-1.31), and tended to increase with age,  
245 although these effects were not statistically significant ( $P_{\text{heterogeneity}}=.26$ ;  $P_{\text{trend}}=.05$ ). We found no  
246 indication for effect modification by family history ( $P_{\text{heterogeneity}}=.63$ ), morphology ( $P_{\text{heterogeneity}}=.14$ ),  
247 ER-status ( $P_{\text{heterogeneity}}=.13$ ), PR-status ( $P=.26$ ), HER2-status ( $P_{\text{heterogeneity}}=.42$ ), chemotherapy  
248 ( $P_{\text{heterogeneity}}=.60$ ), endocrine therapy ( $P_{\text{heterogeneity}}=.79$ ), or radiotherapy ( $P_{\text{heterogeneity}}=.40$ ) (Table  
249 2).

250  
251 The C-index was 0.563 (95%CI=0.547-0.586) for the model only including PRS<sub>313</sub>, 0.605  
252 (95%CI=0.591-0.629) for the model only including other risk factors, and 0.623 (95%CI=0.608-  
253 0.645) for the complete model (Table 3).

#### 254 255 *Absolute risks*

256 Based on the HR estimates for PRS<sub>313</sub>, the predicted CBC risk by age 80 years was 12.4% at  
257 the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of the PRS<sub>313</sub>, compared with 20.5% at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the PRS<sub>313</sub>  
258 (Figure 2), accounting for death as competing risk. When death was not taken into account as  
259 competing risk, the corresponding predicted risks by age 80 were 17.0% at the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile  
260 and 27.9% at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the PRS<sub>313</sub> (Figure S4). Table 4 shows the five- and 10-year  
261 cumulative CBC risks by PRS<sub>313</sub> for different age groups, accounting for death as competing risk  
262 (Table S7 shows results without competing risks).

263 *European and Asian (case-case series) logistic regression analyses*

264 Figure 3 shows the distribution of the PRS<sub>313</sub> per SD in the European case-case series. Median  
265 PRS<sub>313</sub> was -0.4 (interquartile range [IQR]=1.35) for control women without any diagnosis of  
266 breast cancer (N=81,000), 0.2 (IQR=1.36) for women with unilateral breast cancer (N=62,830),  
267 and 0.5 (IQR=1.40) for women with CBC (N=3,607). The OR for unilateral breast cancer per SD  
268 of the PRS<sub>313</sub> was 1.82 (95%CI=1.80-1.84) compared to control women (Table S8). The OR for  
269 CBC per SD of PRS<sub>313</sub> was 1.30 (95%CI=1.26-1.35) compared to unilateral breast cancer.

270

271 In sensitivity analyses, the OR per SD of PRS<sub>313</sub> was 1.27 (95%CI=1.21-1.33) for metachronous  
272 CBC and the OR per SD was 1.29 (95%CI=1.24-1.33) for invasive CBC, compared to unilateral  
273 breast cancer. When analyses were restricted to the validation set of Mavaddat et al<sup>7</sup>, the OR  
274 for unilateral breast cancer per SD of the PRS<sub>313</sub> was 1.67 (95%CI=1.59-1.76) compared to  
275 control women, and the OR for CBC per SD of PRS<sub>313</sub> was 1.39 (95%CI=1.13-1.70) compared  
276 to unilateral breast cancer (Table S8).

277

278 For women of Asian descent, the OR for unilateral breast cancer per SD of the PRS<sub>313</sub> was 1.56  
279 (95%CI=1.52-1.60) compared to control women, and the OR for CBC per SD of PRS<sub>313</sub> was  
280 1.15 (95%CI=1.02-1.29) compared to women with unilateral breast cancer (Table S8).

281 **Discussion**

282 Previous studies have shown that a PRS, summarizing the effects of common germline  
283 variants, can be used to stratify women with respect to their risk to develop a primary breast  
284 cancer<sup>6-9</sup>. In this study, we observed a clear association between the PRS<sub>313</sub> and CBC risk in  
285 women of both European and Asian ancestry. The association was observed in both the case-  
286 case series and the cohort. The HRs per SD of CBC for women at the 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of  
287 the continuous predicted PRS<sub>313</sub> were 0.75 and 1.33, respectively, compared to the 50<sup>th</sup>  
288 percentile. This translates to absolute risks at the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the PRS<sub>313</sub> of  
289 12.4% and 20.5%, respectively, by age 80 years. We estimated a C-index for the PRS<sub>313</sub>,  
290 summarizing its discriminatory ability, of 0.563 in the European cohort.

291  
292 One previous study has investigated the effect of a PRS, including 67 variants, and CBC risk<sup>10</sup>.  
293 This study found a risk ratio of 1.75 (95%CI=1.41-2.18) for women in the upper quartile of the  
294 PRS compared with women in the lowest quartile. To facilitate comparison, we performed a  
295 similar analysis in our case-case series, showing an OR of 1.98 (95%CI=1.79-2.18), adjusted  
296 for country and age at first diagnosis, for women in the upper quartile of the PRS<sub>313</sub>. This  
297 indicates the PRS<sub>313</sub> improves stratification relative to PRSs including fewer variants. Moreover,  
298 in our cohort, the C-index for the PRS alone improved from 0.547 (95%CI=0.536-0.575) for the  
299 previously reported PRS<sub>77</sub><sup>6</sup> to 0.563 (95%CI=0.547-0.586) for the PRS<sub>313</sub>.

300  
301 We found no evidence that the association between the PRS<sub>313</sub> and CBC risk was confounded  
302 by family history, adjuvant therapy, morphology, age, or tumor receptor status of the first breast  
303 cancer, nor that there was effect modification by those factors. The absence of notable effect  
304 modification is in line with the abovementioned study of a 67-variant PRS and CBC risk; no  
305 heterogeneity in association was found by age, family history, morphology, ER-status, and  
306 adjuvant treatment<sup>10</sup>.

307

308 We considered the UK biobank cohort the most logical choice, given the large number of  
309 women diagnosed with breast cancer with information available on the PRS<sub>313</sub>, for an external  
310 validation of our findings. However, it became apparent that the UK biobank cohort had no  
311 information available on the laterality of the tumor. Therefore, it was not possible to distinguish  
312 between contralateral and ipsilateral breast cancers and we performed analyses using any  
313 second breast cancer as the endpoint. This secondary analysis did confirm the association  
314 between the PRS<sub>313</sub> and second breast cancer risk (HR per SD=1.13, 95%CI=1.01-1.27), but  
315 with a lower estimate than in our cohort. The lower estimate may be explained by the inclusion  
316 of the ipsilateral breast cancers, which may be more likely to be recurrences than new primary  
317 breast cancers compared to CBCs. Indeed, when we used ipsilateral breast cancer as the  
318 outcome in our BCAC cohort, we found no association with the PRS<sub>313</sub> (HR=1.02, 95%CI=0.90-  
319 1.15).

320

321 The association between the PRS<sub>313</sub> and CBC risk (OR per SD=1.30; 95%CI=1.26-1.35) in the  
322 BCAC database was weaker (expressed in terms of an OR) than was found for first breast  
323 cancer among independent prospective studies (OR per SD=1.61; 95%CI=1.57-1.65). Under a  
324 simple polygenic model, the relative risk would be expected to be similar for the second breast  
325 cancer. The attenuated estimate for CBC might however be explained by several factors. Some  
326 attenuation of the estimate might have been due to dilution in the end-point definition, *i.e.*, if  
327 some of the CBCs were metastases. Previous studies investigating the clonal relatedness of  
328 first breast cancers and CBCs using tumor sequencing have shown that 6-12% of CBCs  
329 represent metastases<sup>18; 19</sup>. This hypothesis would be consistent with our finding of a slightly  
330 stronger association between the PRS<sub>313</sub> and late CBCs, diagnosed >five years after the first  
331 breast cancer, than for early CBCs, diagnosed ≤five years after the first cancer, since the latter  
332 are more likely to be metastases. In addition, 3-5% of the breast cancer patients will be *BRCA1*

333 or *BRCA2* mutation carriers<sup>20; 21</sup>, who have high CBC risks. It has been shown that the relative  
334 risk associated with PRS is lower (for the first breast cancer) for *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutation  
335 carriers than in the general population<sup>22</sup>, diluting the overall relative risk for CBC. More  
336 generally, it is possible that the CBC association may be attenuated due to the effect of other,  
337 unmeasured, genetic or other risk factors. If the risks are high, cases with higher PRS<sub>313</sub> will  
338 have, on average, lower values of other risk factors, due to elimination of the highest risk  
339 individuals, again attenuating the CBC association. Finally, given the limited information on  
340 family history in our dataset, the estimate could have been biased due to a family history effect  
341 not detected in our data.

342  
343 There was some suggestion that the relative risk associated with PRS<sub>313</sub> decreased with  
344 younger age, ( $P_{\text{trend}}=.05$ ), and, specifically, was lower for women aged <40 years (HR per  
345 SD=1.13; 95%CI=0.98-1.31). Interestingly, Mavaddat et al<sup>7</sup> also found a lower relative risk  
346 below age 40 for first breast cancer. This effect may reflect the different characteristics of breast  
347 cancers at young ages, both in terms of germline susceptibility and pathology<sup>23; 24</sup>. For example,  
348 the proportion of ER-negative breast cancers is higher at young ages, and the PRS is less  
349 predictive for ER-negative disease<sup>6; 7; 24</sup>.

350  
351 In the logistic regression analyses in Asian women, the association between the PRS<sub>313</sub> and  
352 CBC risk was slightly weaker than in European women. This finding is consistent with a study  
353 investigating the association between a 287-variant PRS and first breast cancer risk in the Asian  
354 population<sup>25</sup>, which showed an attenuated OR in Asian women (OR=1.52, 95%CI=1.49-1.56)  
355 compared to European women (OR=1.61, 95%CI=1.57-1.66). The lower estimate for Asian  
356 women might reflect the fact the PRS<sub>313</sub> was developed in European populations, and the  
357 different LD structure in Asians may attenuate the association since the variants in the PRS are  
358 likely to be surrogates for the causal variants. Other explanations for the attenuated estimate

359 may be the slightly younger age at first breast cancer diagnosis and the higher proportion ER-  
360 negative CBCs in Asian women compared to European women in our study. Finally, the  
361 imputation quality for variants was somewhat lower, on average, for the Asian than for the  
362 European dataset, with three variants on OncoArray and four variants on ICOGs with an  
363 imputation quality score < 0.3 (Table S3). Nevertheless, we included those variants in the PRS  
364 for both European and Asian women, to keep the PRS comparable between ethnicities and  
365 studies. Future studies including larger numbers of Asian women, and women of other  
366 ethnicities, are needed to generate population-specific PRSs and to validate our findings in  
367 these groups.

368  
369 A major strength of this study is the very large sample size in the BCAC dataset, including  
370 genotype information for ~150,000 women and a large number of CBC events. A limitation of  
371 this study is missing data on the patient, tumor, and treatment characteristics, which reduces  
372 the power of the multivariable Cox regression analyses and interaction analyses. In addition,  
373 registration of CBC was not complete; the 10-year cumulative CBC incidence was 2.2% in the  
374 BCAC dataset, compared to 3.8% using complete data from the Netherlands Cancer Registry<sup>1</sup>.  
375 For this reason, we estimated relative risk estimates using the BCAC data and applied these to  
376 external registry data to obtain absolute risk estimates. The underreporting of CBC should not  
377 bias our HR estimates, given that the event rate is low and reporting of CBC is unlikely to be  
378 related to the PRS<sub>313</sub>. Moreover, we reran the cohort analysis in the subset of countries with a  
379 10-year cumulative CBC incidence ≥ 3.0% in the BCAC dataset, and the estimates were very  
380 similar to the main analyses (HR per SD = 1.23, 95% CI = 1.14-1.33) (Figure S3).

381  
382 In conclusion, the PRS<sub>313</sub> is predictive for the development of CBC. We found no evidence for  
383 confounding or effect modification by other previously established CBC risk factors. The PRS<sub>313</sub>  
384 is therefore likely to be an independent risk factor for CBC. Since the predictive ability of the

385 PRS on its own is modest, it should be combined with other breast cancer risk factors to provide  
386 more useful CBC risk prediction models. More accurate risk prediction will help identify women  
387 at high CBC risk who will benefit from additional surveillance and/or risk reducing mastectomy,  
388 and equally important, to identify those women at low risk in order to avoid unnecessary  
389 surgeries.



## **Supplemental Data**

Supplemental data include four figures, eight tables, supplement UK biobank and acknowledgements.

## **Data and Code Availability**

Data used in this manuscript may be requested through the original providers. Data of the Breast Cancer Association Consortium may be requested for non-profit research through an application procedure with the Breast Cancer Association Consortium; more information: <http://bcac.ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/bcacdata/>. Data of the UK biobank needs to be requested through UK biobank; more information: <https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/researchers/>

## **Acknowledgements**

Acknowledgements are included in the Supplement.

## **Funding**

This work was supported by the Alpe d'HuZes/Dutch Cancer Society (KWF Kankerbestrijding) (grant number A6C/6253).

BCAC is funded by Cancer Research UK [C1287/A16563, C1287/A10118], the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme (grant numbers 634935 and 633784 for BRIDGES and B-CAST respectively), and by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement number 223175 (grant number HEALTH-F2-2009-223175) (COGS). The EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme funding source had no role in study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation or writing of the report.

Genotyping of the OncoArray was funded by the NIH Grant U19 CA148065, and Cancer UK Grant C1287/A16563 and the PERSPECTIVE project supported by the Government of Canada through Genome Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (grant GPH-129344) and, the Ministère de l'Économie, Science et Innovation du Québec through Genome Québec and the PSRSIIRI-701 grant, and the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation. Funding for the iCOGS infrastructure came from: the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement n° 223175 (HEALTH-F2-2009-223175) (COGS), Cancer Research UK (C1287/A10118, C1287/A10710, C12292/A11174, C1281/A12014, C5047/A8384, C5047/A15007, C5047/A10692, C8197/A16565), the National Institutes of Health (CA128978) and Post-Cancer GWAS initiative (1U19 CA148537, 1U19 CA148065 and 1U19 CA148112 - the GAME-ON initiative), the Department of Defence (W81XWH-10-1-0341), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for the CIHR Team in Familial Risks of Breast Cancer, and Komen Foundation for the Cure, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.

The Australian Breast Cancer Family Study (ABCFS) was supported by grant UM1 CA164920 from the National Cancer Institute (USA). The content of this manuscript does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the National Cancer Institute or any of the collaborating centers in the Breast Cancer Family Registry (BCFR), nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the USA Government or the BCFR. The ABCFS was also supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, the New South Wales Cancer Council, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (Australia) and the Victorian Breast Cancer Research Consortium. J.L.H. is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Senior Principal Research Fellow. M.C.S. is a NHMRC Senior Research Fellow. The ABCS study was supported by the Dutch Cancer Society [grants NKI 2007-3839; 2009 4363]. The Australian Breast Cancer Tissue Bank (ABCTB) was supported by

the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, The Cancer Institute NSW and the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The work of the BBCC was partly funded by ELAN-Fond of the University Hospital of Erlangen. The BBCS is funded by Cancer Research UK and Breast Cancer Now and acknowledges NHS funding to the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, and the National Cancer Research Network (NCRN). The BCEES was funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia and the Cancer Council Western Australia and acknowledges funding from the National Breast Cancer Foundation (JS). For the BCFR-NY, BCFR-PA, BCFR-UT this work was supported by grant UM1 CA164920 from the National Cancer Institute. The content of this manuscript does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the National Cancer Institute or any of the collaborating centers in the Breast Cancer Family Registry (BCFR), nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the US Government or the BCFR. The BCINIS study was supported in part by the BCRF (Breast Cancer Research Foundation, NY, USA). For BIGGS, ES is supported by NIHR Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre, Guy's & St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with King's College London, United Kingdom. IT is supported by the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre. The BREast Oncology GALician Network (BREGAN) is funded by Acción Estratégica de Salud del Instituto de Salud Carlos III FIS PI12/02125/Cofinanciado FEDER, FIS PI17/00918/Cofinanciado FEDER; Acción Estratégica de Salud del Instituto de Salud Carlos III FIS Intrasalud (PI13/01136); Programa Grupos Emergentes, Cancer Genetics Unit, Instituto de Investigación Biomedica Galicia Sur. Xerencia de Xestión Integrada de Vigo-SERGAS, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain; Grant 10CSA012E, Consellería de Industria Programa Sectorial de Investigación Aplicada, PEME I + D e I + D Suma del Plan Gallego de Investigación, Desarrollo e Innovación Tecnológica de la Consellería de Industria de la Xunta de Galicia, Spain; Grant EC11-192. Fomento de la Investigación Clínica Independiente, Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad, Spain; and Grant FEDER-Innterconecta. Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad, Xunta de Galicia, Spain. The

BSUCH study was supported by the Dietmar-Hopp Foundation, the Helmholtz Society and the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ). CBCS is funded by the Canadian Cancer Society (grant # 313404) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. CCGP is supported by funding from the University of Crete. The CGPS was supported by the Chief Physician Johan Boserup and Lise Boserup Fund, the Danish Medical Research Council, and Herlev and Gentofte Hospital. The CNIO-BCS was supported by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, the Fondo de Investigación Sanitario (PI16/00440 with FEDER funds), and CIBERER (Spanish Network on Rare diseases). The CTS was initially supported by the California Breast Cancer Act of 1993 and the California Breast Cancer Research Fund (contract 97-10500) and is currently funded through the National Institutes of Health (R01 CA77398, UM1 CA164917, and U01 CA199277). Collection of cancer incidence data was supported by the California Department of Public Health as part of the statewide cancer reporting program mandated by California Health and Safety Code Section 103885. HAC receives support from the Lon V Smith Foundation (LVS39420). The University of Westminster curates the DietCompLyf database funded by Against Breast Cancer Registered Charity No. 1121258 and the NCRN. FHRISK is funded from NIHR grant PGfAR 0707-10031. The GC-HBOC (German Consortium of Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer) is supported by the German Cancer Aid (grant no 110837, coordinator: Rita K. Schmutzler, Cologne). This work was also funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Free State of Saxony, Germany (LIFE - Leipzig Research Centre for Civilization Diseases, project numbers 713-241202, 713-241202, 14505/2470, 14575/2470). The GENICA was funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Germany grants 01KW9975/5, 01KW9976/8, 01KW9977/0 and 01KW0114, the Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart, Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum (DKFZ), Heidelberg, the Institute for Prevention and Occupational Medicine of the German Social Accident Insurance, Institute of the Ruhr University Bochum (IPA), Bochum, as well as the Department of Internal Medicine, Evangelische Kliniken Bonn gGmbH, Johanniter Krankenhaus, Bonn, Germany. The GESBC was supported by the

Deutsche Krebshilfe e. V. [70492] and the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ). GLACIER was supported by Breast Cancer Now, CRUK and Biomedical Research Centre at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London. The HABCS study was supported by the Claudia von Schilling Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, by the Lower Saxonian Cancer Society, and by the Rudolf Bartling Foundation. The HEBCS was financially supported by the Helsinki University Hospital Research Fund, the Finnish Cancer Society, and the Sigrid Juselius Foundation. The HERPACC was supported by MEXT Kakenhi (No. 170150181 and 26253041) from the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, Culture and Technology of Japan, by a Grant-in-Aid for the Third Term Comprehensive 10-Year Strategy for Cancer Control from Ministry Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, by Health and Labour Sciences Research Grants for Research on Applying Health Technology from Ministry Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, by National Cancer Center Research and Development Fund, and "Practical Research for Innovative Cancer Control (15ck0106177h0001)" from Japan Agency for Medical Research and development, AMED, and Cancer Bio Bank Aichi. The HMBCS was supported by a grant from the Friends of Hannover Medical School and by the Rudolf Bartling Foundation. The HUBCS was supported by a grant from the German Federal Ministry of Research and Education (RUS08/017), and by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research and the Federal Agency for Scientific Organizations for support the Bioresource collections and RFBR grants 14-04-97088, 17-29-06014 and 17-44-020498. ICICLE was supported by Breast Cancer Now, CRUK and Biomedical Research Centre at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London. Financial support for KARBAC was provided through the regional agreement on medical training and clinical research (ALF) between Stockholm County Council and Karolinska Institutet, the Swedish Cancer Society, The Gustav V Jubilee foundation and Bert von Kantzows foundation. The KARMA study was supported by Märit and Hans Rausing's Initiative Against Breast Cancer. The KBCP was financially supported by the special Government Funding (EVO) of Kuopio University Hospital grants, Cancer Fund of North Savo,

the Finnish Cancer Organizations, and by the strategic funding of the University of Eastern Finland. kConFab is supported by a grant from the National Breast Cancer Foundation, and previously by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Queensland Cancer Fund, the Cancer Councils of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, and the Cancer Foundation of Western Australia. Financial support for the AOCS was provided by the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command [DAMD17-01-1-0729], Cancer Council Victoria, Queensland Cancer Fund, Cancer Council New South Wales, Cancer Council South Australia, The Cancer Foundation of Western Australia, Cancer Council Tasmania and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC; 400413, 400281, 199600). G.C.T. and P.W. are supported by the NHMRC. RB was a Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Research Fellow. LMBC is supported by the 'Stichting tegen Kanker'. DL is supported by the FWO. The MABCS study is funded by the Research Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology "Georgi D. Efremov", MASA. The MARIE study was supported by the Deutsche Krebshilfe e.V. [70-2892-BR I, 106332, 108253, 108419, 110826, 110828], the Hamburg Cancer Society, the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Germany [01KH0402]. MBCSG is supported by grants from the Italian Association for Cancer Research (AIRC) and by funds from the Italian citizens who allocated the 5/1000 share of their tax payment in support of the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori, according to Italian laws (INT-Institutional strategic projects "5x1000"). The MCBCS was supported by the NIH grants CA192393, CA116167, CA176785 an NIH Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in Breast Cancer [CA116201], and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and a generous gift from the David F. and Margaret T. Grohne Family Foundation. The Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study (MCCS) cohort recruitment was funded by VicHealth and Cancer Council Victoria. The MCCS was further augmented by Australian National Health and Medical Research Council grants 209057, 396414 and 1074383 and by infrastructure provided by Cancer Council Victoria. Cases and

their vital status were ascertained through the Victorian Cancer Registry and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, including the National Death Index and the Australian Cancer Database. The Multiethnic Cohort Study (MEC) was funded by NIH grant U01 CA164973. The MEC was supported by NIH grants CA63464, CA54281, CA098758, CA132839 and CA164973. The MISS study is supported by funding from ERC-2011-294576 Advanced grant, Swedish Cancer Society, Swedish Research Council, Local hospital funds, Berta Kamprad Foundation, Gunnar Nilsson. The MMHS study was supported by NIH grants CA97396, CA128931, CA116201, CA140286 and CA177150. MYBRCA is funded by research grants from the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education (UM.C/HIR/MOHE/06) and Cancer Research Malaysia. MYMAMMO is supported by research grants from Yayasan Sime Darby LPGA Tournament and Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education (RP046B-15HTM). The NBCS has received funding from the K.G. Jebsen Centre for Breast Cancer Research; the Research Council of Norway grant 193387/V50 (to A-L Børresen-Dale and V.N. Kristensen) and grant 193387/H10 (to A-L Børresen-Dale and V.N. Kristensen), South Eastern Norway Health Authority (grant 39346 to A-L Børresen-Dale) and the Norwegian Cancer Society (to A-L Børresen-Dale and V.N. Kristensen). The NBHS was supported by NIH grant R01CA100374. Biological sample preparation was conducted the Survey and Biospecimen Shared Resource, which is supported by P30 CA68485. The Northern California Breast Cancer Family Registry (NC-BCFR) and Ontario Familial Breast Cancer Registry (OFBCR) were supported by grant UM1 CA164920 from the National Cancer Institute (USA). The content of this manuscript does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the National Cancer Institute or any of the collaborating centers in the Breast Cancer Family Registry (BCFR), nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the USA Government or the BCFR. The Carolina Breast Cancer Study was funded by Komen Foundation, the National Cancer Institute (P50 CA058223, U54 CA156733, U01 CA179715), and the North Carolina University Cancer Research Fund. The OBCS was supported by research grants from the Finnish Cancer

Foundation, the Academy of Finland (grant number 250083, 122715 and Center of Excellence grant number 251314), the Finnish Cancer Foundation, the Sigrid Juselius Foundation, the University of Oulu, the University of Oulu Support Foundation and the special Governmental EVO funds for Oulu University Hospital-based research activities. The ORIGO study was supported by the Dutch Cancer Society (RUL 1997-1505) and the Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure (BBMRI-NL CP16). The PBCS was funded by Intramural Research Funds of the National Cancer Institute, Department of Health and Human Services, USA. The POSH study is funded by Cancer Research UK (grants C1275/A11699, C1275/C22524, C1275/A19187, C1275/A15956 and Breast Cancer Campaign 2010PR62, 2013PR044). PROCAS is funded from NIHR grant PGfAR 0707-10031. DGE, AH and WN are supported by the all Manchester NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (IS-BRC-1215-20007). The RBCS was funded by the Dutch Cancer Society (DDHK 2004-3124, DDHK 2009-4318). The SASBAC study was supported by funding from the Agency for Science, Technology and Research of Singapore (A\*STAR), the US National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The SBCS was supported by Sheffield Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre and Breast Cancer Now Tissue Bank. SEARCH is funded by Cancer Research UK [C490/A10124, C490/A16561] and supported by the UK National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centre at the University of Cambridge. The University of Cambridge has received salary support for PDPP from the NHS in the East of England through the Clinical Academic Reserve. SEBCS was supported by the BRL (Basic Research Laboratory) program through the National Research Foundation of Korea funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (2012-0000347). SGBCC is supported by the National Research Foundation Singapore (NRF-NRFF2017-02), NUS start-up Grant, National University Cancer Institute Singapore (NCIS) Centre Grant [NMRC/CG/NCIS/2010, NMRC/CG/012/2013, CGAug16M005], Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health Research Programme of Research Seed Funding (Breast Cancer Prevention Program), Asian Breast Cancer Research Fund, and



the NMRC Clinician Scientist Award (SI Category) [NMRC/CSA-SI/0015/2017]. Controls from Singapore were recruited by the Singapore Consortium of Cohort Studies-Multi-ethnic cohort (SCCS-MEC), which was funded by the Biomedical Research Council, grant number: 05/1/21/19/425. SKKDKFZS is supported by the DKFZ. The SMC is funded by the Swedish Cancer Foundation and the Swedish Research Council (VR 2017-00644) grant for the Swedish Infrastructure for Medical Population-based Life-course Environmental Research (SIMPLER). The SZBCS was supported by Grant PBZ\_KBN\_122/P05/2004 and the program of the Minister of Science and Higher Education under the name "Regional Initiative of Excellence" in 2019-2022 project number 002 / RID / 2018/19, amount of financing 12 000 000 PLN. The TWBCS is supported by the Taiwan Biobank project of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. The UCIBCS component of this research was supported by the NIH [CA58860, CA92044] and the Lon V Smith Foundation [LVS39420].

### **Declaration of Interests**

Dr. Beckmann conducts research funded by Amgen, Novartis and Pfizer, outside the submitted work. Dr. Fasching conducts research funded by Amgen, Novartis and Pfizer, outside the submitted work. He received honoraria from Roche, Novartis and Pfizer. Dr. Nevanlinna received honorarium from Astra Zeneca outside the submitted work.

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**Figure 1. Estimates for contralateral breast cancer risk by percentile categories of the 313-variant PRS ( $PRS_{313}$ )**

The figure shows the hazard ratios per SD and 95% confidence intervals for percentiles of the  $PRS_{313}$  relative to the middle quintile (underlying table can be found in Table S5). The solid line denotes the estimates for contralateral breast cancer risk with the  $PRS_{313}$  fitted as a continuous covariate. Coefficients to construct the  $PRS_{313}$  are shown in Table S3. The  $PRS_{313}$  was standardized by  $SD=0.61$ , in line with Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup>. The analyses were performed with attained age as time scale. PRS = polygenic risk score, SD = standard deviation

**Figure 2. Predicted contralateral breast cancer risk by percentile of the 313-variant PRS ( $PRS_{313}$ ) with death as competing risk**

Coefficients to construct the  $PRS_{313}$  are shown in Table S3. The  $PRS_{313}$  was standardized by  $SD=0.61$ , in line with Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup> The CBC incidences were calculated based on incidence data from the Netherlands Cancer Registry<sup>1</sup> and relative risks estimated as described in the Material and Methods. PRS = polygenic risk score, CBC = contralateral breast cancer

**Figure 3. Distribution of the 313-variant PRS ( $PRS_{313}$ ) in 62,830 control women without any diagnosis of breast cancer, 81,000 women with unilateral breast cancer, and 3,607 women with contralateral breast cancer**

Coefficients to construct the  $PRS_{313}$  are shown in Table S3. The  $PRS_{313}$  was standardized by  $SD=0.61$ , in line with Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup>. PRS = polygenic risk score, BC = breast cancer, CBC = contralateral breast cancer, SD = standard deviation

**Table 1. Association between PRSs and contralateral breast cancer risk in the cohort (N=56,068)**

Polygenic risk score (PRS)	No. of CBC	HR per unit SD <sup>a</sup>	95%CI	P-value
<b>PRS<sub>77</sub><sup>b</sup></b>				
All CBC	1,027	1.21	1.14-1.29	<.001
Invasive CBC	923	1.21	1.13-1.29	<.001
<b>PRS<sub>313</sub><sup>b</sup></b>				
All CBC	1,027	1.25	1.18-1.33	<.001
Invasive CBC	923	1.24	1.16-1.32	<.001
ER-positive invasive CBC <sup>d</sup>	275	1.38	1.23-1.55	<.001
ER-negative invasive CBC <sup>d</sup>	97	0.92	0.75-1.12	.39
<b>ER-positive PRS<sub>313</sub><sup>b,c</sup></b>				
All CBC	1,027	1.23	1.16-1.31	<.001
Invasive CBC	923	1.22	1.15-1.30	<.001
ER-positive invasive CBC <sup>d</sup>	275	1.37	1.22-1.54	<.001
<b>ER-negative PRS<sub>313</sub><sup>b,c</sup></b>				
All CBC	1,027	1.25	1.17-1.33	<.001
Invasive CBC	923	1.24	1.16-1.33	<.001
ER-negative invasive CBC <sup>d</sup>	97	1.06	0.86-1.30	.58

Abbreviations: PRS = polygenic risk score, No. = number, CBC = contralateral breast cancer, HR = hazard ratio, CI = confidence interval, ER = estrogen receptor, SD = standard deviation

<sup>a</sup> All analyses were performed with attained age as time scale

<sup>b</sup> Coefficients to construct the PRSs are shown in Table S3. All PRSs were standardized by the same SD as was used by Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup>. The SD was 0.45 for overall breast cancer PRS<sub>77</sub>, 0.61 for overall breast cancer PRS<sub>313</sub>, 0.65 for ER-positive PRS<sub>313</sub>, and 0.59 for ER-negative PRS<sub>313</sub>

<sup>c</sup> ER-specific PRSs were constructed using a hybrid method, as described by Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>d</sup> Patients with ER-unknown CBC (N=551) were censored in these analyses

**Table 2. Association between the 313-variant PRS (PRS<sub>313</sub>) and contralateral breast cancer risk for subgroups**

Subgroups	No. of patients	No. of CBC	HR per unit SD <sup>a,b</sup>	95%CI	P-value	P <sub>heterogeneity</sub> <sup>c,d</sup>	P <sub>trend</sub> <sup>c,e</sup>
All patients	56,068	1,027	1.25	1.18-1.33	<.001	-	-
Age at first breast cancer diagnosis (years)						.26	.05
<40	5,877	171	1.13	0.98-1.31	.09		
40-49	11,928	265	1.25	1.11-1.41	<.001		
50-59	16,882	320	1.22	1.09-1.36	<.001		
60+	21,381	271	1.36	1.21-1.52	<.001		
Family history (first degree relative)						.63	-
no	33,623	618	1.26	1.16-1.36	<.001		
yes	10,369	302	1.22	1.09-1.36	<.001		
Morphology						.14	-
ductal	37,324	621	1.21	1.12-1.31	<.001		
lobular	5,878	118	1.32	1.10-1.59	.002		
mixed (ductal and lobular)	2,174	46	1.52	1.15-2.02	.004		
other	3,344	70	1.20	0.96-1.50	.11		
ER-status						.13	-
negative	9,527	194	1.13	0.98-1.30	.08		
positive	38,090	670	1.28	1.19-1.38	<.001		
PR-status						.26	-
negative	13,098	244	1.16	1.03-1.32	.02		
positive	27,044	554	1.27	1.17-1.38	<.001		
HER2-status						.42	-
negative	23,787	352	1.29	1.17-1.44	<.001		
positive	4,969	60	1.45	1.13-1.85	.004		
(Neo)adjuvant chemotherapy						.60	-
no	18,110	361	1.28	1.16-1.42	<.001		
yes	18,559	363	1.24	1.12-1.37	<.001		
(Neo)adjuvant endocrine therapy						.79	-
no	10,781	242	1.28	1.13-1.44	<.001		
yes	27,322	460	1.30	1.19-1.43	<.001		
Radiotherapy						.40	-
no	11,023	188	1.33	1.15-1.53	<.001		
yes	29,142	617	1.24	1.15-1.34	<.001		

Abbreviations: PRS = polygenic risk score, No. = number, CBC = contralateral breast cancer, HR = hazard ratio, CI = confidence interval, ER = estrogen receptor, PR = progesterone receptor, HER2 = human epidermal growth factor receptor 2

<sup>a</sup> HR for CBC risk by unit SD of PRS<sub>313</sub>. All analyses were performed with attained age as time scale

<sup>b</sup> Coefficients to construct the PRS<sub>313</sub> are shown in Table S3. The PRS<sub>313</sub> was standardized by standard deviation=0.61, in line with Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>c</sup> The interaction between the PRS<sub>313</sub> and each subgroup was tested in different models including the standardized PRS<sub>313</sub>, modifier, and interaction. Patients with unknown values were excluded from these analyses. Since attained age was used as time scale in all models, the model with age at first breast cancer only included the PRS<sub>313</sub> and interaction

<sup>d</sup> P for interaction based on test for heterogeneity across categories

<sup>e</sup> P for interaction based on a trend test with age as continuous variable



**Table 3. Discriminatory ability (C-index) of the 313-variant PRS (PRS<sub>313</sub>) and other risk factors for contralateral breast cancer risk in the cohort**

	C-index (95%CI) <sup>a,b</sup>
<i>Model 1</i> PRS <sub>313</sub> <sup>c</sup> alone	0.563 (0.547-0.586)
<i>Model 2</i> Other risk factors <sup>d</sup>	0.605 (0.591-0.629)
<i>Model 3</i> PRS <sub>313</sub> <sup>c</sup> + other risk factors <sup>d</sup>	0.623 (0.608-0.645)

Abbreviations: PRS = polygenic risk score, CI = confidence interval

<sup>a</sup> The Harrell's C-index was obtained by the STATA stcox postestimation command 'estat concordance', using time since first breast cancer on the time scale without taking delayed entry (prevalent cases) into account. We did not consider delayed-entry since no standard performance measures are currently available in the statistical literature to account for left-truncated follow-up time. The median of delayed entry was 0.4 years (standard deviation=2.7) in our study

<sup>b</sup> The 95% CIs were obtained by use of the 'somersd' package in STATA

<sup>c</sup> Coefficients to construct the PRS<sub>313</sub> are shown in Table S3. The PRS<sub>313</sub> was standardized by SD=0.61, in line with Mavaddat et al.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>d</sup> Including age at first diagnosis, year of first diagnosis, family history for breast cancer in a first degree relative, and clinical characteristics of the first breast cancer (nodal status, tumor size, differentiation grade, morphology, estrogen receptor status, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 status, chemotherapy, endocrine therapy, radiotherapy)

**Table 4. Five- and ten-year cumulative risks of contralateral breast cancer by the 313-variant PRS (PRS<sub>313</sub>) for different age groups with death as competing risk**

Age at first breast cancer diagnosis (years)	5-year cumulative CBC risks (%) range by age					10-year cumulative CBC risks (%) range by age				
	5 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	50 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	5 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	50 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile PRS <sub>313</sub>
30-34	1.9-3.1	2.1-3.4	2.7-4.5	3.6-5.9	4.0-6.5	3.1-4.1	3.4-4.5	4.5-5.9	5.9-7.7	6.5-8.5
35-39	0.8-2.1	0.9-2.3	1.2-3.0	1.5-3.9	1.7-4.3	2.1-3.5	2.3-3.8	3.0-5.0	3.9-6.6	4.3-7.2
40-44	1.5-2.8	1.7-3.1	2.2-4.1	2.9-5.3	3.2-5.9	2.8-4.6	3.1-5.0	4.1-6.6	5.3-8.6	5.9-9.4
45-49	1.4-2.5	1.5-2.7	2.0-3.6	2.6-4.7	2.9-5.2	2.5-3.9	2.7-4.3	3.6-5.6	4.7-7.4	5.2-8.1
50-54	1.4-2.8	1.5-3.0	1.9-4.0	2.6-5.2	2.8-5.8	2.8-4.5	3.0-4.9	4.0-6.4	5.2-8.4	5.8-9.3
55-59	1.6-3.1	1.8-3.4	2.3-4.5	3.1-5.9	3.4-6.5	3.1-4.8	3.4-5.2	4.5-6.9	5.9-9.0	6.5-9.9
60-64	1.7-3.3	1.9-3.6	2.5-4.7	3.3-6.2	3.6-6.8	3.3-5.0	3.6-5.4	4.7-7.1	6.2-9.3	6.8-10.2
65-70	1.5-3.2	1.6-3.5	2.1-4.6	2.8-6.1	3.1-6.7	3.2-4.1	3.5-4.5	4.6-5.9	6.1-7.7	6.7-8.5

Abbreviations: PRS = polygenic risk score, CBC = contralateral breast cancer

Coefficients to construct the PRS<sub>313</sub> are shown in Table S3. The PRS<sub>313</sub> was standardized by SD=0.61, in line with Mavaddat et al<sup>7</sup>. The CBC incidences for each age group were calculated based on incidence data from the Netherlands Cancer Registry<sup>1</sup> and relative risks estimated as described in the Material and Methods. Death was taken into account as competing risk.