

NOMINALLY PSA

Antigen augurs well for breast cancer

SAN DIEGO-Prostate-specific antigen may need a new name.

It has been detected in malignant female breast tumors, where PSA seems to be a promising sign. In a study of 953 patients, researchers at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital and UT San Antonio found that after a median 73 months' follow-up, the relative risk of relapse and death was significantly lower in patients with PSA levels above the 30th percentile than among PSA-negatives.

The relative risk of relapse was 0.67 and of death 0.72 in the PSA-positive patients, Dr. Eleftherios Diamandis' Toronto team told the American Association for Cancer Research meeting here.

PSA has also been identified in normal breast tissue, milk, breast nipple fluid, amniotic fluid, and in lung and ovarian tumors. High levels in nipple fluid have been linked to a reduced breast-cancer risk, he adds.