

1 **TITLE PAGE**

2 **Title:**

3 **A prediction model for underestimation of invasive breast cancer after a biopsy**
4 **diagnosis of ductal carcinoma in situ: based on 2 892 biopsies and 589 invasive cancers**

6 **Running Title:**

7 Prediction of underestimation of breast cancer

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29

30 **ABSTRACT**

31

32 **Background:**

33 Patients with a biopsy diagnosis of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) might be diagnosed with
34 invasive breast cancer at excision, a phenomenon known as underestimation. Patients with
35 DCIS are treated based on the risk of underestimation or progression to invasive cancer. The
36 aim of our study was to expand the knowledge on underestimation and to develop a prediction
37 model.

38 **Methods:**

39 Population-based data were retrieved from the Dutch Pathology Registry and the Netherlands
40 Cancer Registry for DCIS between January 2011 and June 2012.

41 **Results:**

42 Of 2 892 DCIS biopsies, 21% were underestimated invasive breast cancers. In multivariable
43 analysis, risk factors were high grade DCIS (OR 1.43, 95%CI 1.05-1.95), a palpable tumour (OR
44 2.22, 95%CI 1.76-2.81), a BI-RADS score 5 (OR 2.36, 95%CI 1.80-3.09), and a suspected
45 invasive component at biopsy (OR 3.84, 95% CI 2.69-5.46). The predicted risk for
46 underestimation ranged from 9.5% to 80.2%, with a median of 14.7%. Of the 596 invasive
47 cancers, 39% had unfavourable features.

48 **Conclusions:**

49 The risk for an underestimated diagnosis of invasive breast cancer after a diagnosis of DCIS at
50 biopsy is considerable. With our prediction model, the individual risk of underestimation can be
51 calculated based on routinely available pre-operatively known risk factors
52 (<https://www.evidencio.com/models/show/1074>).

53	KEYWORDS
54	DCIS
55	ductal carcinoma in situ
56	breast cancer
57	underestimation
58	upstaging
59	risk factors
60	prediction model
61	unfavourable features
62	minimal-volume DCIS

63 **BACKGROUND**

64 Patients with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) are treated based on the risk of underestimation or
65 progression to invasive cancer. The standard treatment for patients with a biopsy diagnosis
66 DCIS is wide local excision with radiation or mastectomy. Often a sentinel lymph node (SLN)
67 biopsy is advised for axillary staging.^{1,2} Both the standard treatment and the use of the SLN
68 biopsy can constitute overtreatment. The standard treatment might be disproportionate for
69 screen-detected DCIS patients that have a high chance that the DCIS would not even have
70 been detected during their lifetime.³ It has been estimated that between 14% and 53% of DCIS
71 progress into invasive breast cancer.^{4,5}

72 To address overtreatment, phase III trials investigate the safety of active surveillance of
73 DCIS patients at low risk for developing or having invasive breast cancer.⁶⁻¹¹ Active surveillance
74 is based on the result of the biopsy. By modelling of active surveillance of DCIS patients, the
75 disease-specific cumulative mortality was related to underestimation.^{12,13} Underestimation is the
76 phenomenon that the invasive breast cancer is undetected at pre-operative biopsy and only
77 becomes evident after pathological examination of the excision material. The use of the SLN
78 biopsy can also constitute overtreatment. The SLN biopsy is done if a mastectomy is chosen
79 and also for patients undergoing wide local excision who are at high risk of having an
80 underestimated invasive breast cancer.^{1,2} The reported risk of underestimation varies from 14%
81 to 43%^{14,15}, and in a meta-analysis it was estimated to be 25.9% (95%CI: 22.5%-29.5%)¹⁶.
82 These rates indicate that many patients will still have the diagnosis DCIS after examination of
83 the excision material, so the SLN biopsy would not have been necessary.

84 Knowledge on the risk of underestimation is important in selecting high-risk or low-risk
85 patients for treatment or active surveillance. The most frequently reported risk factors for
86 underestimation are DCIS grade and factors found with radiological diagnostic work-up, such as
87 the size of the lesion, mass on mammography or ultrasonography, and the BI-RADS score.¹⁴⁻²⁷
88 Furthermore, these studies reported that the risk of underestimation was associated with age,
89 palpability, histologic suspicion of invasion, image guidance method, biopsy device and other
90 factors. An overview of the found risk factors for underestimation is given in table 1. Based on

91 risk factors, several studies developed prediction models with the purpose to select patients for
92 SLN biopsy ^{14,17,24,28-30}.

93 Besides the underestimation rate, other factors are useful for making a treatment plan
94 for a patient diagnosed at biopsy with DCIS. First of all, for some of these patients, no residual
95 disease is found in the excision material; this is defined as minimal-volume DCIS. A rate of 9.3%
96 was reported.³¹ Second, of the underestimated invasive breast cancers the information on
97 unfavourable features is of interest; the reported Her2Neu status is quite high ^{22,23} and the
98 hormonal receptor statuses vary ^{21-23,25,26}.

99 The diversity of identified risk factors for underestimation has resulted in differences
100 between the clinical guidelines used in different countries. For example, according to the NICE
101 guideline (United Kingdom) for the use of the SLN biopsy, risk factors for underestimation are a
102 palpable mass or extensive micro-calcifications, while according to the Dutch guideline, these
103 are age <55 years, intermediate or high grade DCIS, a mass on mammography and a
104 suspected invasive component based on biopsy. For active surveillance, the main criterion for
105 patient selection in low-risk DCIS trials are DCIS grade, and patients with mass or other
106 relevant factors are excluded.

107 The diversity in risk factors might be due to the study designs, since the investigated
108 potential risk factors varied and many studies on underestimation were single institution studies
109 with limited numbers of cases. Information at population level is lacking. In addition, there is
110 hardly any data on minimal-volume DCIS nor on the presence of unfavourable features of the
111 underestimated invasive breast cancer.

112 The aim of our study was to expand the knowledge on underestimation of invasive
113 breast cancer for patients with a biopsy diagnosis DCIS in routine clinical practice in the
114 Netherlands and to develop a prediction model based on population data. We also analysed the
115 association of predicted risk with minimal-volume DCIS and with the occurrence of unfavourable
116 features of the underestimated invasive breast cancer. The results could contribute to a
117 treatment plan that is both patient-specific and helps in reducing overtreatment.

118

119 **METHODS**

120 **Study design and population.** This study used retrospective data that was nationwide.. Data
121 were received from the Dutch Pathology Registry, which is managed by PALGA (the nationwide
122 network and registry of histo- and cytopathology in the Netherlands) and were matched with
123 data from the Netherlands Cancer Registry (NCR), which is hosted by the IKNL (the
124 Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation). The Dutch Pathology Registry contains all
125 the reports written by pathologists of material examined in all Dutch Pathology Laboratories.³²
126 The NCR contains information that is collected and coded by specially trained registration clerks
127 from the hospitals' patient files of every patient with cancer, after notification from PALGA.³³

128 Lesions were selected from PALGA, since this study is based on the biopsy diagnosis
129 and the NCR registers the final diagnosis at excision. Histological breast biopsies were selected
130 that were performed in the period January 1, 2011 until June 30, 2012. The diagnosis should be
131 carcinoma in situ, with no invasive cancer in the same biopsy, no lymph node metastases found
132 preoperative and also not melanoma in situ, Morbus Paget or Morbus Bowen. DCIS with micro-
133 invasion was not included, nor were intracystic carcinoma, lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) and
134 ductal hyperplasia lesions. Based on the PALGA conclusion (free text field) information on the
135 diagnosis, DCIS grade, suspected invasive component, synchronous contralateral tumour and
136 ipsilateral history were coded. The data were extended with those registered by the NCR; age,
137 ipsilateral history, detection mode, palpability, BI-RADS score, pre-operative MRI,
138 multidisciplinary team meeting, type of first resection, nodal status, and of the invasive cancers
139 the morphology, grade, the receptors ER, PR, Her2Neu and tumour size. Lesions were
140 excluded in case of incomplete registration, primarily no excision of the lesion, a biopsy
141 diagnosis that was inconclusive as to whether the lesion was benign or DCIS, and in case of an
142 ipsilateral history of DCIS or invasive breast cancer.

143 Data was categorized: the category detection mode consisted of screen-detected DCIS
144 (DCIS detected within 12 months after a positive mammography at the population-based
145 screening program) and otherwise detected DCIS (all other DCIS). DCIS grade was categorized
146 into low, intermediate or high. If the tumour consisted of two different grades or if the grade was
147 inconclusive, the highest DCIS grade was chosen. Suspected invasive component was coded

148 'yes' if it was mentioned as such in the conclusion of the pathology report and if it was not
149 refuted with potential additional staining. For the BI-RADS score, no subgroup information for
150 score 4 was available.³⁴ A synchronous contralateral lesion was defined as DCIS or invasive
151 breast cancer in both breasts with a difference in incidence date of less than 3 months.
152 Underestimation was defined as invasive cancer or micro-invasion found at excision after a
153 biopsy diagnosis DCIS. Tumours were graded according to the Bloom-Richardson grade or
154 another equivalent method. Tumour size and nodal status were used to categorize the TNM
155 stage.³⁵ Underestimated invasive breast cancers were categorized based on unfavourable
156 features. In the Dutch guideline³⁶, they were defined as features that, if present, would mean
157 that systemic therapy would be recommended, because the absolute 10-year mortality risk was
158 at least 15%. These features of the invasive cancers were:

- 159 • Her2Neu positive with size >5 mm
- 160 • age <35 years, except size ≤10 mm with grade I
- 161 • size >10 mm but ≤20 mm with grade II or III
- 162 • size >20 mm
- 163 • positive lymph nodes

164

165 **Statistical analysis.** The data were analysed to investigate associations and to develop a
166 prediction model. First, the distribution of patient characteristics and potential risk factors was
167 compared between patients with and without underestimated invasive breast cancer for the
168 non-missing values, using the Mann-Whitney test or the Pearson chi-square test. The
169 associations between potential risk factors were analysed with the Pearson chi-square test or
170 the Fisher exact test. The risk for underestimation of invasive breast cancer was analysed with
171 logistic regression analysis. The threshold for significance of risk factors was the two-sided p-
172 value of 0.05. In this logistic regression, we only included characteristics that were known as
173 independent variables prior to operation: age, detection mode, palpability, BI-RADS score,
174 DCIS grade and suspected invasive component at biopsy. The decision to do a pre-operative
175 MRI and the type of first resection were not included in the model, because no causal
176 association with underestimation was expected. Next, to ensure that all relevant variables were

177 included in the prediction model, the independent variables were chosen via stepwise backward
178 selection with a p-value threshold for elimination of $p < 0.20$. In the prediction model, age was
179 tested multiple times: continuously using both linear and quadratic terms and dichotomously
180 with thresholds of 40, 45 and 55 years for comparison with previous publications.^{1,6,21} Interaction
181 was tested for combinations that were clinically the most plausible: suspected invasive
182 component and DCIS grade, age <45 years (based on cut-off age in active surveillance) in
183 combination with BI-RADS score, or palpability, or DCIS grade. To account for missing data,
184 multiple imputation with fully conditional specification was used in the multivariable logistic
185 analysis. Twenty imputed data sets were generated, and the results were pooled according to
186 Rubin's rules. Based on the imputed data, a formula was defined to predict the risk. Finally,
187 internal validation of the model was performed with bootstrap repetitions (200 times). The
188 logistic regression model was evaluated with the area under the curve (AUC) of the receiver
189 operating characteristic (ROC). Based on the predicted risks, patients were divided into five
190 subgroups, and the association with minimal-volume DCIS and unfavourable features was
191 analysed with the p-trend test for proportions. The analyses were done with STATA
192 statistics/data analysis, version 13.1, StataCorp, Texas and in R, with the rms package for the
193 evaluation of the predictive performance and the mice package for multiple imputation.

194 **RESULTS**

195 Of 3 281 lesions that were selected with a preoperative biopsy diagnosis DCIS, 64 (2.0%) were
196 excluded because they were not registered in the NCR, and 15 (0.5%) because registration was
197 incomplete. In addition, to answer the research question accurately, more were excluded: 60
198 (1.8%) that did primarily not undergo excision, 143 (4.4%) for which the biopsy diagnosis was
199 inconclusive and 107 (3.3%) with an ipsilateral history of DCIS or invasive breast cancer,
200 resulting in 2 892 DCIS diagnoses included in the study. Of these, 379 (13%) had missing data
201 for one or more potential risk factor: 148 for palpability, 223 for BI-RADS score, 84 for DCIS
202 grade and 81 for detection mode.

203 Of the 2 892 DCIS diagnoses at biopsy, 596 (20.6%) were underestimated, as the
204 diagnosis was invasive breast cancer at excision. Table 2 shows patient and biopsy
205 characteristics and their relation with underestimation. Of biopsy DCIS, 66% was screen-
206 detected, 22% was palpable, 13% had a BI-RADS score 3, 75% had a BI-RADS score 4, 12%
207 had a BI-RADS score 5 and 5% had a suspected invasive component at biopsy. The DCIS
208 grade distribution was 15% low, 39% intermediate and 46% high ($p=0.001$). Of the
209 intermediates, 13% were low to intermediate or consisted of both low and intermediate grade
210 DCIS, 21% were intermediate to high grade or consisted of both intermediate and high grade
211 DCIS. The underestimation rate was 21% on average for all cases, 26% for non-screen-
212 detected lesions, 36% for palpable lesions, 41% for BI-RADS score 5 and 23% for high grade
213 DCIS (p -values between different categories were less than 0.001 for all variables). The risk
214 factors with the greatest differences in underestimation rate for subgroups were palpability, with
215 a 20% higher rate for palpable than for non-palpable lesions, BI-RADS score, with a 25% higher
216 rate for BI-RADS score 5 than for score 3, and suspected invasive component, with a 31%
217 higher rate for suspected invasive component than for none. Of 596 invasive breast cancers, 47
218 were T1mi and 207 were T1a. The underestimation rate when filtering out all lesions of 5 mm or
219 smaller was 11.8% ($n=342$).

220 Table 3 shows the results of univariable and multivariable analysis of the risk for
221 underestimation of pre-operatively known potential risk factors for invasive breast cancer. Age
222 and detection mode were statistically significant in univariable analysis, but not in multivariable

223 analysis. Both were associated with palpability and BI-RADS score, and age was also
224 associated with DCIS grade (shown in supplement 1, along with other associations). In
225 multivariable analysis, grade, palpability, BI-RADS score and a suspected component were
226 significant.

227 For each of the 2 892 DCIS, the risk of an underestimated invasive breast cancer was
228 calculated based on the prediction model with the following formula:

$$229 \text{ Predicted risk} = \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-\text{Score}}} \right) * 100\%,$$

230 with score = $-2.1131 + 0.1555 * \text{detection_mode_otherwise} + 0.7985 * \text{palpable} - 0.1464 * \text{BI-}$
231 $\text{RADS_score_3} + 0.8589 * \text{BI-RADS_score_5} + 0.3111 * \text{intermediate_DCIS_grade} +$
232 $0.3571 * \text{high_DCIS_grade} + 1.3445 * \text{suspected_invasive_component}$

233 where for all risk factors: 1 = if condition applies, 0 = otherwise.

234 For example, the predicted risk is calculated as follows for a screen-detected DCIS which is
235 non-palpable, has a BI-RADS score 4, an intermediate grade and no suspected invasive
236 component:

$$237 \text{ Score} = -2.1131 + 0.1555 * 0 + 0.7985 * 0 - 0.1464 * 0 + 0.8589 * 0 + 0.3111 * 1 + 0.3571 * 0 +$$

$$238 1.3445 * 0 = -1.802, \text{ and Predicted risk} = \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-(-1.802)}} \right) * 100\% = 14.2\%$$

239 The risk for an individual patient can be calculated in a user-friendly way with a calculation tool
240 in evidencio, <https://www.evidencio.com/models/show/1074>.

241 The predicted risks ranged from 9.5% to 80.2%, the mean was 20.6% and the median was
242 14.7%. The predicted risk for underestimation was on average 27.4% for the biopsy DCIS that
243 were underestimated invasive breast cancers, whereas it was on average 18.8% for the biopsy
244 DCIS that also had the DCIS diagnosis at excision. The predicted risks for each combination of
245 risk factors are shown in supplement 2. The matching of the predicted risks with the observed
246 rate is shown in supplement 3.

247 The ability of the model to separate DCIS as diagnosis after excision from underestimated
248 invasive breast cancer is shown in figure 1. To draw this figure, the DCIS were divided into low-
249 risk or high-risk DCIS based on a cut-off point, and for each point the sensitivity and 1-specificity
250 was calculated. In this study, the sensitivity means the rate of underestimated invasive breast
251 cancer that was correctly predicted as high-risk, and 1-specificity means the rate of DCIS at

252 excision that was falsely predicted as high-risk. The AUC (c-index) of the ROC was 0.668 and
253 the AUC, corrected for optimism by bootstrapping, was 0.661. The AUC for a model based only
254 on lesions greater than 5 mm was 0.69.

255 Based on the predicted risks, the DCIS biopsies were divided into five subgroups; the
256 characteristics of each subgroup are shown in table 4. From the subgroups with the lowest
257 predicted risk to the subgroup with the highest predicted risk, the underestimation rate
258 increased from 10.7% to 40.1%.

259 The associations between the predicted risks and minimal-volume DCIS were as
260 follows: the rates of minimal-volume DCIS decreased from 18.0% to 1.6% from the subgroups
261 with the lowest predicted risk to the subgroup with the highest predicted risk, $p < 0.001$ (see table
262 4). On average, 6.8% of DCIS diagnoses at biopsy were minimal-volume DCIS, in which the
263 DCIS was completely removed via biopsy (meaning 8.5% of the 2 296 lesions with the DCIS
264 diagnosis at excision).

265 The associations between the predicted risks and unfavourable features were as
266 follows: the percentage of invasive breast cancers with unfavourable features increased from
267 15.9% to 49.5% from the lowest to the highest predicted risk group, $p < 0.001$ (see table 4). On
268 average, 39% of the invasive breast cancers had unfavourable features. More details on the
269 distribution of tumour characteristics of the 596 invasive breast cancers are shown in
270 supplement 4. Of the invasive breast cancers, 27% were grade III, 26% were Her2Neu positive,
271 8% were triple negative, 77% were TNM stage 1A (size at maximum 2.0 cm and no metastasis),
272 and the median size was 6 mm.

273 **DISCUSSION**

274 The aim of our study was to expand the knowledge on underestimation of invasive breast
275 cancer at core needle biopsy in the routine clinical practice in the Netherlands and to develop a
276 prediction model based on analysis of a retrospective population-based dataset of 2 892 DCIS
277 diagnoses. We also analysed the association of predicted risk with minimal-volume DCIS and
278 with the occurrence of unfavourable features of the underestimated invasive breast cancer.

279 The risk for underestimation of invasive breast cancer after a DCIS diagnosis was
280 almost 21%. Pre-operatively known risk factors for an underestimated diagnosis of invasive
281 breast cancer were a high DCIS grade, a palpable tumour, a BI-RADS score 5 and a
282 histologically suspected invasive component. Detection mode was also included in the model
283 although the association with underestimation was comparably weak. The predicted risk for
284 underestimation ranged from 9.5% to 80.2%. Of the 596 underestimated invasive breast
285 cancers, 39% had unfavourable features. Of the DCIS diagnoses at excisional pathology, 6.8%
286 were minimal-volume DCIS.

287 The underestimation rate of 20.6% shows that excision of the DCIS is still not only
288 important for preventing DCIS from progressing to invasive breast cancer but also for finding
289 already existing invasive breast cancers. The rate found in our study was in-between the 25.9%
290 of a meta-analysis published in 2011 and the recently reported 14.1% of a large single-
291 institution study.^{14,16} The underestimation rate is associated with the diagnostic work up
292 whereby there is a tendency to decreasing underestimation rates in more recent time period.
293 This study used data from 2011 and 2012. At that time vacuum assisted biopsy was not yet
294 commonly used in the Netherlands, therefore we assume that the underestimation rate currently
295 will be somewhat lower in the Netherlands. And in the period 2011-2012 hospitals often used
296 screen-film mammography but the screening mammography was already digitized, therefore no
297 major difference in underestimation rate The Netherlands currently is assumed because of this
298 change in technique.

299 This population-based study showed several clinical, radiological and pathological
300 features that are all routinely available before operation as risk factors for underestimation.

301 The risk factors we found are partly similar to those reported in literature. Differences could be
302 due to sample size, as this study was much larger than other studies: studies in literature had
303 172 to 834 cases and up to 145 events, whereas we had 2892 cases and 589 events.
304 Differences in study outcomes could also be caused by the combination of available data and
305 the correlation between many data. For age, others found various risks for the youngest age
306 category: no increase ²⁵, increased but not significantly so ¹⁶ and univariable significant but not
307 in multivariable analysis ^{14,21}. In our study, young age was also only univariably associated with
308 underestimation. For DCIS grade, the risk of underestimation for intermediate grade was in-
309 between the risk for low and high grade DCIS. This was also reported by some other studies
310 ^{14,20,27}, whereas others reported the risk for intermediate grade DCIS as comparable to that of
311 the high grade risk ^{19,25}. In our study the DCIS grade was less discriminative than the other risk
312 factors in the model, but on the other hand the underestimation rate of 15% for low DCIS grade
313 was the lowest rate for a subgroup in the model and high grade was the largest subgroup with
314 an increased risk. Palpability of the lesion has consistently been reported as a risk factor, which
315 this study could confirm. ^{15,16,18,19,22-24,26,37} The BI-RADS score is an assessment categorization
316 that should give an indication of the likelihood of cancer based on the interpretation of the
317 radiologist. We showed that it is associated with the underestimation rate; the difference
318 between BI-RADS score 4 and 5 was 23% in underestimation rate, which is much larger than
319 the 7-8% found by others. ^{16,21} A larger difference was reported in a study with a high average
320 underestimation rate due to a high rate of micro-invasion. ¹⁵ Still, the study of Kim is interesting
321 because they found a somewhat higher underestimation rate for BI-RADS score 4c, compared
322 to 4a and 4b. It is worth noting that the BI-RADS score has not yet been investigated very
323 extensively. A suspected invasive component has also only been reported in a limited number
324 of studies. ^{23,24}; all found a high risk for underestimation for biopsies with a suspected
325 component.

326 The prediction model we developed with the identified risk factors must be used wisely.
327 For selecting high-risk lesions it has to be noted that lesions with a high predicted risk still have
328 a good chance of a final diagnosis of DCIS since the sensitivity of the model was low. The
329 sensitivity or the AUC was higher in several other studies. ^{14,17,22,24,28} Each study with a

330 prediction model used different risk factors and therefore the models are not easily comparable.
331 This has also been demonstrated in external validation of studies that applied published models
332 to their cases; one study demonstrated a tendency towards lower or higher numbers of
333 observed underestimates than expected ²⁹, and another previous study demonstrated validation
334 AUCs of 0.59 to 0.66, whereas the studies they validated reported validities of 0.70 to 0.85 ¹⁴.
335 The low AUC in this study could also be due to the absence of certain data that might have
336 been important, such as the type of biopsy device and the size of the lesion on mammography.
337 This is shown in table 1 where the references that were made bold are the results of the studies
338 making a prediction model whereas the variable names that are given in bold are the variables
339 that were analysed in this study.

340 Part of the DCIS were minimal-volume DCIS and thus removed in the biopsy itself. In
341 this study minimal-volume DCIS was associated with the predicted underestimation risk. To our
342 knowledge, this information has never been demonstrated before; one study demonstrated a
343 similar rate of minimal-volume DCIS, but the association with underestimation was not
344 investigated.³¹ In our study, the minimal-volume DCIS was higher for the predicted low-risk
345 group.

346 The invasive breast tumours that were found at excision were heterogeneous in
347 prognostic and predictive features. Underestimated invasive tumours are often small: the
348 median size was 6 mm, which is in line with or somewhat lower than the results of other
349 studies.^{17,25-27} On the other hand, 8% were TNM stage IIB or III, and 20% were triple negative or
350 ER-PR-Her2Neu+. Where other studies analysed none or a few tumour characteristics, we had
351 numerous tumour-related data of the 589 underestimates. Based on these data, we calculated
352 the rate of cancers with unfavourable features, which was 39%. For these patients, systemic
353 therapy was indicated. In our study, the rate of unfavourable features was higher for the
354 predicted high-risk DCIS group.

355 Due to its retrospective nature, this study has certain limitations. A limitation in
356 interpreting the results is that the pre-operative decisions and techniques were not
357 standardized, and therefore the preferences of the treating physicians and the patients will have
358 influenced the underestimation results. For instance, for a high grade DCIS with histological

359 suspicion of invasiveness, the biopsy can be repeated (and invasive breast cancer might be
360 found pre-operatively) or initial treatment can be started (with an increased risk of
361 underestimation). Also, for DCIS grade, other studies might have used different grading
362 systems. Another limitation is that results of observational studies are difficult to compare
363 because of differences in diagnostic work-up, differences in major selection criteria, such as the
364 presence of micro-invasion, differences in investigated risk factors and associations between
365 the investigated risk factors. Our dataset did not provide information on the number of biopsies
366 nor on the biopsy device, and hence the amount of tumour taken at biopsy was not known.
367 Some other factors were not available either, such as the presence of comedo-necrosis, the
368 breast density, the visibility of the lesion on ultrasound, the presence of mammographic mass or
369 the size of the lesion seen on the mammogram.

370 The model in this study is based on a large dataset that is based on nation-wide Dutch
371 data, and it demonstrated the association of risk for underestimation with minimal-volume DCIS
372 and unfavourable features of invasive cancer, which makes the results valuable. The prediction
373 model could be improved by adding additional data; the most interesting targets of investigation
374 for future research are the biopsy type and mammography-related data: BI-RADS score 4
375 subcategories, the underlying reasons for a BI-RADS score (such as mass), size of the lesion,
376 and presence of residual mammographic abnormalities after biopsy. Furthermore, the prediction
377 model should be validated externally.

378

379 **Conclusion.** Our results demonstrated that the risk for an underestimated diagnosis of invasive
380 breast cancer after a diagnosis of DCIS at biopsy is considerable. Of these invasive breast
381 cancers, two-fifth have unfavourable features. With our prediction model, the individual risk of
382 underestimation can be calculated based on routinely available pre-operatively known risk
383 factors

384 **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

385 **Ethics approval:**

386 The study was approved by the scientific committee of PALGA (14.025 LZV1073) and the
387 Privacy Review Board of IKNL (K14.021).

388 **Availability of data:**

389 The dataset generated for this current study are not publicly available due additional research
390 questions to be answered but is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

391 The prediction model is available for external validation via Evidencio (model 1074).

392 **Conflict of interest:**

393 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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396 **Authorship:**

397 Study conception: CM / PW, study design: CM / JR / MM / PW, data coding: CM / PW, data
398 analyses: CM / JR, data interpretation: CM / JR / MM / AB / LM / SS / PW, drafting article: CM,
399 revision article: JR / MM / AB / LM / SS / PW.

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403 database for this study.

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405

406 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

407 Supplementary information is available at the British Journal of Cancer's website. Supplement 1
408 (PDF) shows the associations in occurrence of the potential risk factors. Supplement 2 (PDF)
409 lists the predicted risks for each combination of risk factors that was present in our dataset.

410 Supplement 3 (PDF) shows the calibration plot of one of the imputed datasets. Supplement 4
411 (PDF) shows the tumour characteristics of underestimated invasive breast cancers.

412 **REFERENCE LIST**

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531 Figure 1: Performance of the model in relation to the chosen cut-off point of the predicted risks.

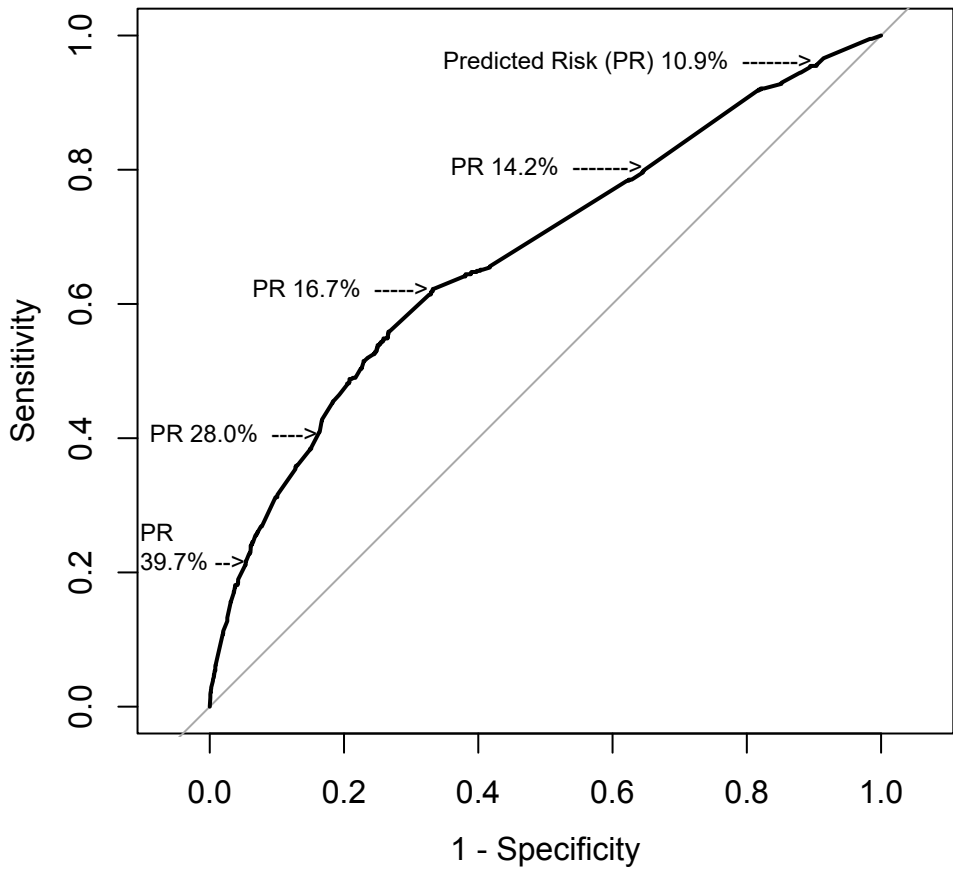


Table 1: Results of previous studies on risk factors for underestimation

Variable ^{&, §}	Significance of potential risk factors, as described in literature ^{#, \$}		
	No	Yes, univariable*	Yes, multivariable^
Age	15, 16, 18, 22, 24 , 25	14 , 21	
Detection mode [~]		14 , 16	
Palpable	22	16	15, 18, 23/ 28, 24 , 25, 26
Clinical size of mass		18	
BI-RADS [~]	21, 23	14 , 15, 16	
Maximum size on imaging		16	22
Maximum size on mammography [~]		18, 21, 26	14 , 20, 24 , 25
Maximum size on ultrasonography [~]		23	15, 30
Maximum size on MRI		26	30
Mass on imaging			14
Mass on mammography		16, 26	18
Mass on ultrasonography	30	26	23/ 28
Visibility on ultrasonography	16		24
Type of mammographic abnormality [~]	14 , 21, 24	15	25
Calcifications on mammography	23, 26		30
Calcifications on ultrasonography			23/ 28
Suspicious findings on ultrasonography or MRI			30
Multicentric		14	
Breast density		14	
Residual disease on mammogram after biopsy			21
Calcification % removed by CNB		14	
Biopsy guidance technique [~]		14 , 16, 24 , 26	
Biopsy type CNB, VAB	24	16 , 25	15, 22 , 23/ 28
Biopsy needle gauge		14	
Number of cores obtained [~]	14 , 21	15, 25, 26	
DCIS grade	26	16, 23, 24 , 25	14 , 15, 20
Nuclear grade	26, 30		22
Suspicious of invasion on biopsy			23/ 28, 24
Comedo-necrosis	16, 18, 23, 26	14 , 22 , 25	30
Intraductal structure			25
Cibriform	14		22
Sclerosing adenosis			30
Hormone receptor ER/PR			22
Progesterone receptor		30	
HER2	22		30

&: Variables in bold are variables that were analysed in this study

§: Variables that were analysed but were not statistically significant in any study were: mass on MRI (30), mass on ultrasonography or MRI (30), abnormality on mammography; mass, asymmetry or distortion (23), calcifications on imaging (22), suspicious findings on ultrasonography (30), suspicious findings on MRI (30), solid (14, 22) papillary (14, 22), micropapillary (14, 22), necrosis (22), estrogen receptor (14,30), period from breast biopsy to surgery (25), Van Nuys grouping (23), family history (21), menopausal status (21), type of first resection (18)

~: The categories of these variables were not uniformly defined between studies

#: Listed are 12 studies with at least 100 cases of underestimation

\$: References in bold are of the 5 studies that developed a prediction model

*: Reference 16 presents results of random-effect logistic regression models in a meta-analysis

^: The multivariable significant variables of reference 23 were used in a prediction model, as described in reference 28

Table 2: Distribution of underestimation rate

		All N	Underestimated invasive breast cancer				p-value
			No		Yes		
			N	%	N	%	
Total		2892	2296	79.4%	596	20.6%	
Age in years	mean (range)	58.7 (24-91)	58.9 (30-88)		57.8 (24-91)		0.033
Age categories							< 0.001
< 45 years		207	142	69%	65	31%	
≥ 45 years		2685	2154	80%	531	20%	
Detection mode							< 0.001
Screen-detected		1850	1521	82%	329	18%	
Otherwise		961	714	74%	247	26%	
Missing		81	61	75%	20	25%	
Palpable							< 0.001
No		2147	1794	84%	353	16%	
Yes		597	380	64%	217	36%	
Missing		148	122	82%	26	18%	
BI-RADS score							< 0.001
3		365	306	84%	59	16%	
4		1996	1638	82%	358	18%	
5		308	183	59%	125	41%	
Missing		223	169	76%	54	24%	
DCIS histological grade at biopsy							0.001
Low		422	360	85%	62	15%	
Intermediate		1083	866	80%	217	20%	
High		1303	1006	77%	297	23%	
Missing		84	64	76%	20	24%	
Suspected invasive component at biopsy							< 0.001
No		2743	2222	81%	521	19%	
Yes		149	74	50%	75	50%	
Synchronous contralateral breast tumour							0.181
No		2796	2225	80%	571	20%	
Yes		96	71	74%	25	26%	
Preoperative MRI							< 0.001
No (or unknown)		2188	1773	81%	415	19%	
Yes		704	523	74%	181	26%	
Preoperative multidisciplinary team meeting							0.364
No (or unknown)		301	245	81%	56	19%	
Yes		2591	2051	79%	540	21%	
1st resection							< 0.001
Wide Local Excision		1822	1510	83%	312	17%	
Mastectomy		1070	786	73%	284	27%	

Table 3. Risk factors for underestimation

Preoperative patient and lesion characteristics [#]	Logistic regression analysis for underestimation of invasive breast cancer					
	Univariable			Multivariable [§]		
	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value
Age						not in the model ^{&}
< 45 years	1.86	1.34 - 2.53	<0.001			
≥ 45 years	1					
Detection mode						
Screen-detected	1			1		
Otherwise	1.60	1.33 - 1.93	<0.001	1.16	0.94 - 1.45	0.164
Palpable						
No	1			1		
Yes	2.90	2.37 - 3.55	<0.001	2.22	1.76 - 2.81	<0.001
BI-RADS score			<0.001			<0.001
3	0.88	0.65 - 1.19	0.487	0.86	0.64 - 1.17	0.348
4	1			1		
5	3.13	2.43 - 4.03	<0.001	2.36	1.80 - 3.09	<0.001
DCIS histological grade at biopsy			0.001			0.078
Low	1			1		
Intermediate	1.45	1.06 - 1.98	0.017	1.36	0.99 - 1.87	0.054
High	1.71	1.27 - 2.31	<0.001	1.43	1.05 - 1.95	0.025
Suspected invasive component biopsy						
No	1			1		
Yes	4.32	3.09 - 6.04	<0.001	3.84	2.69 - 5.46	<0.001

[§] Based on the imputed dataset

[&] Age: continuous: p=0.552, quadratic relationship (adding a quadratic term): p=0.257, dichotomous with threshold 40 years: p=0.923, dichotomous with threshold 45 years: p=0.421, dichotomous with threshold 55 years: p=0.644.

[#] For all interaction variables p>0.05: grade and suspect: p=0.469, age<45 and palpable p=0.168, age<45 and BI-RADS: p=0.996 and age<45 and DCIS grade: p=0.108

Table 4. Risk groups according to percentile of the predicted risk[§]

	<20 percentile	20-<40 percentile	40 - <60 percentile	60 - <80 percentile	≥80 percentile	p-value
Number of lesions	472	526	643	632	619	
Mean predicted risk (range)	11.6 (9.5 - 14.1) %	14.2 (14.2 - 14.7) %	14.8 (14.7 - 16.1) %	21.9 (16.2 -28.0) %	39.1 (28.0 - 80.2) %	
Rate of underestimated invasive breast cancers (n)	10.4% (49)	15.2% (80)	13.2 % (85)	21.8% (138)	39.4 % (244)	
Rate of invasive breast cancers with unfavourable features (n/total)	1.7% (8/472)	4.0 % (21/526)	4.7 % (30/643)	9.0 % (57/632)	19.1 % (118/619)	p<0.001
Rate of minimal-volume DCIS, DCIS completely removed via biopsy (n/total)	18.4% (87/472)	7.6 % (40/526)	4.2% (27/643)	4.9 % (31/632)	1.8 % (11/619)	p<0.001

[§] For each DCIS, a predicted risk was calculated with the prediction model. Based on these risks, the DCIS were divided into five subgroups, with the percentile <20% comprising the 20% of DCIS with the lowest predicted risk, percentile ≥ 80% comprising the 20% of DCIS with the highest risk, etc.

Supplement 1: Associations between risk factors

Of 2892 DCIS included in the study, 2513 had no missing data for one or more potential risk factor.

For these the associations between risk factors are shown in the table. The percentages in the table are row percentages.

For overview purposes not all values of a category are shown in the columns; the percentages of the values ≥ 45 years, detection mode otherwise, non-palpable and no suspected invasive component can be deducted from the other values. For example, there were 175 patients that were < 45 years, the DCIS of 60% was palpable and of 40% non-palpable.

Age and detection mode were both associated with palpability and BI-RADS score, and age was also associated with DCIS grade.

	Number	Age		Detection mode		Palpable		BI-RADS score			DCIS grade at biopsy			Suspected invasive component	
		%	p-value	%	p-value	%	p-value	%	%	%	p-value	%	%	%	p-value
		<45 years		Screen-detected		Yes		3	4	5		Low	Inter-mediate	High	Yes
Age		x		<0.001		<0.001		<0.001				0.012			0.857 [§]
< 45 years	175	x		0%		60%		23%	58%	18%		10%	33%	57%	5%
>=45 years	2338	x		72%		18%		13%	76%	11%		15%	39%	46%	5%
Detection mode		<0.001 [§]		x		<0.001		<0.001				0.939			0.327
Screening	1689	0%		x		10%		11%	80%	10%		15%	39%	46%	5%
Otherwise	824	21%		x		43%		20%	64%	15%		15%	38%	47%	6%
Palpable		<0.001		<0.001		x		<0.001				0.760			<0.001
No	1990	4%		76%		x		14%	78%	8%		15%	39%	46%	4%
Yes	523	20%		33%		x		14%	60%	26%		14%	38%	48%	8%
BI-RADS score		<0.001		<0.001		<0.001		x				<0.001			0.079
3	349	12%		52%		20%		x	x	x		24%	42%	34%	4%
4	1874	5%		72%		17%		x	x	x		14%	38%	48%	5%
5	290	11%		56%		47%		x	x	x		9%	35%	56%	8%
DCIS grade at biopsy		0.012		0.939		0.760		<0.001				x			<0.001 [§]
Low	371	5%		67%		20%		22%	71%	7%		x	x	x	2%
Intermediate	971	6%		68%		20%		15%	74%	11%		x	x	x	3%
High	1171	9%		67%		21%		10%	76%	14%		x	x	x	7%
Suspected invasive component		0.857 [§]		0.327		<0.001		0.079				<0.001 [§]			x
No	2388	7%		67%		20%		14%	75%	11%		15%	39%	45%	x
Yes	125	7%		63%		34%		11%	71%	18%		5%	26%	70%	x

[§]: Fisher's exact test. Other associations were tested with the Pearson chi-square test.

Supplement 2: Predicted risk for each combination of risk factors

Of 2892 DCIS included in the study, 2513 had no missing data for one or more potential risk factor.

For these, the combination of risk factors is shown in the table along with the size of the group, the predicted risk and the percentile group. Highlighted in colour are the combinations with the highest number of DCIS;

number of DCIS: 50 - <100

number of DCIS: ≥ 100

Based on the predicted risk, the DCIS were grouped in one of the five percentile groups. The group <20% comprises the 20% of DCIS with the lowest predicted risk, percentile $\geq 80\%$ comprises the 20% of DCIS with the highest risk, etc. The predicted risks on average per percentile groups were 11.6%, 14.2%, 14.8%, 21.9% and 39.1%.

In the percentile group with the lowest risk, all DCIS were non-palpable and had no suspected invasive component at biopsy. DCIS with a suspected invasive component were all in the highest percentile group.

Percentile group	Predicted risk (%)	Number of DCIS	Detection mode	Palpable (before biopsy)	BI-RADS score	DCIS grade at biopsy	Suspected invasive component at biopsy
<20	9.45	35	screen-detected	no	3	low	no
	10.78	173	screen-detected	no	4	low	no
	10.87	30	otherwise	no	3	low	no
	12.37	38	otherwise	no	4	low	no
	12.47	73	screen-detected	no	3	intermediate	no
	12.98	61	screen-detected	no	3	high	no
20 - <40	14.16	461	screen-detected	no	4	intermediate	no
	14.27	42	otherwise	no	3	intermediate	no
40 - <60	14.73	537	screen-detected	no	4	high	no
	14.84	27	otherwise	no	3	high	no
60 - <80	16.16	114	otherwise	no	4	intermediate	no
	16.79	170	otherwise	no	4	high	no
	18.83	2	screen-detected	yes	3	low	no
	21.17	21	screen-detected	yes	4	low	no
	21.32	15	otherwise	yes	3	low	no
	22.20	11	screen-detected	no	5	low	no
	23.88	26	otherwise	yes	4	low	no
	24.05	2	screen-detected	yes	3	intermediate	no
	24.90	4	screen-detected	yes	3	high	no
	25.00	6	otherwise	no	5	low	no
	26.82	36	screen-detected	yes	4	intermediate	no
	27.00	27	otherwise	yes	3	intermediate	no
	27.74	51	screen-detected	yes	4	high	no
27.92	17	otherwise	yes	3	high	no	
>80	28.03	42	screen-detected	no	5	intermediate	no
	28.97	57	screen-detected	no	5	high	no
	29.98	85	otherwise	yes	4	intermediate	no
	30.96	73	otherwise	yes	4	high	no
	31.27	16	otherwise	no	5	intermediate	no
	31.68	3	screen-detected	no	4	low	yes
	31.88	1	screen-detected	no	3	low	yes
	32.27	14	otherwise	no	5	high	no
	35.35	2	screen-detected	no	3	intermediate	yes
	36.40	4	screen-detected	no	3	high	yes

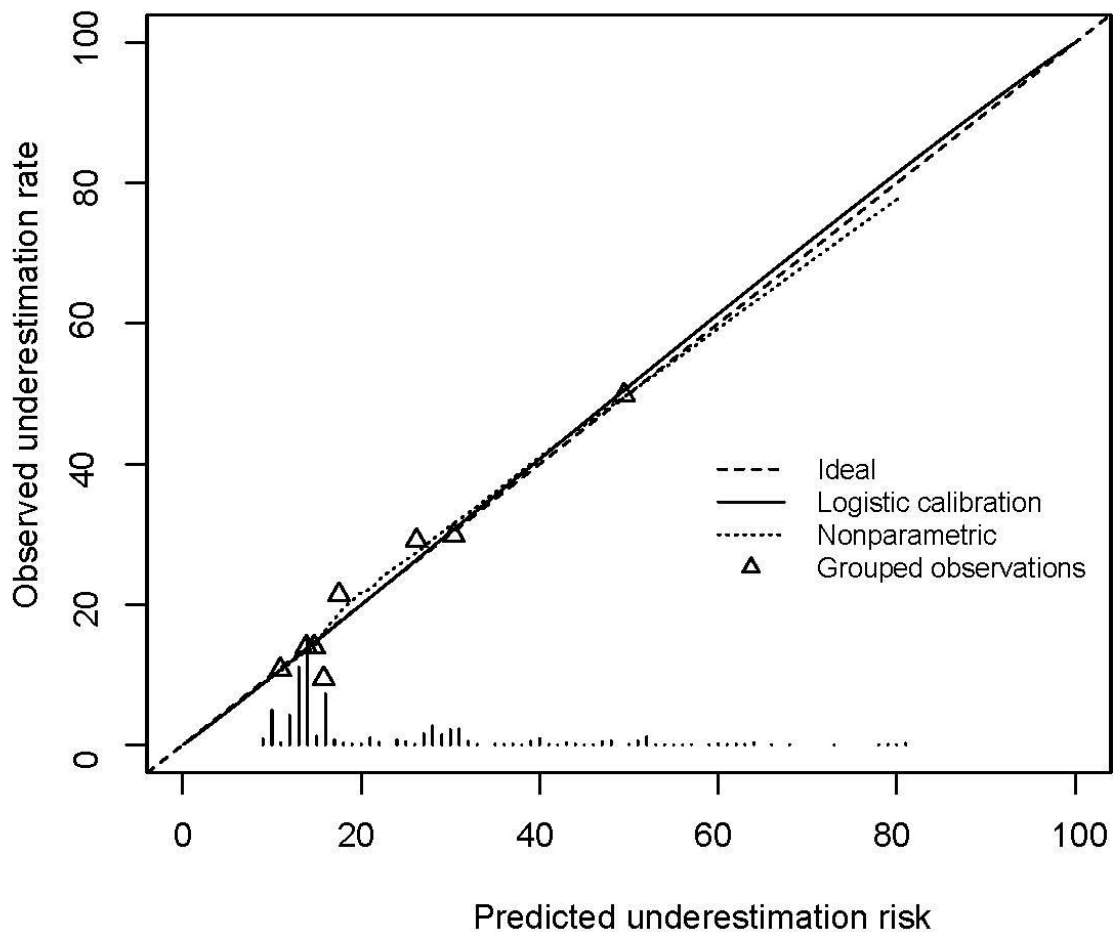
Percentile group	Predicted risk (%)	Number of DCIS	Detection mode	Palpable (before biopsy)	BI-RADS score	DCIS grade at biopsy	Suspected invasive component at biopsy
	38.76	18	screen-detected	no	4	intermediate	yes
	38.80	2	screen-detected	yes	5	high	no
	38.97	1	otherwise	no	3	intermediate	yes
	39.85	35	screen-detected	no	4	high	yes
	40.07	3	otherwise	no	3	high	yes
	42.51	2	otherwise	no	4	intermediate	yes
	42.55	6	otherwise	yes	5	low	no
	43.63	7	otherwise	no	4	high	yes
	46.39	18	screen-detected	yes	5	intermediate	no
	47.54	24	screen-detected	yes	5	high	no
	50.27	23	otherwise	yes	5	intermediate	no
	51.42	49	otherwise	yes	5	high	no
	54.62	2	otherwise	yes	4	low	yes
	55.99	1	screen-detected	yes	3	high	yes
	58.44	2	screen-detected	yes	4	intermediate	yes
	58.66	1	otherwise	yes	3	intermediate	yes
	59.55	6	screen-detected	yes	4	high	yes
	59.77	1	otherwise	yes	3	high	yes
	59.90	2	screen-detected	no	5	intermediate	yes
	61.00	3	screen-detected	no	5	high	yes
	62.16	2	otherwise	yes	4	intermediate	yes
	63.24	12	otherwise	yes	4	high	yes
	64.63	2	otherwise	no	5	high	yes
	77.66	3	screen-detected	yes	5	high	yes
	79.50	2	otherwise	yes	5	intermediate	yes
	80.24	10	otherwise	yes	5	high	yes

Supplement 3: Calibration plot of the prediction model

Of 2892 DCIS included in the study, 379 (13%) had missing data for one or more potential risk factors. These missing data were accounted for via multiple imputations (20 times). For one of these imputed datasets the calibration plot was drawn.

The predicted risk for an underestimated invasive breast cancer versus the observed rate is plotted in the figure below. The distance between the grouped observations and the 45 degree line is a measure of the error of the prediction model. The statistics for the plot for this imputed dataset are: c-statistic (ROC) of 0.666, R^2 of 0.110, Intercept of -0.019, slope of 0.985.

The histogram of the x-axis reflects the frequency of a predicted risk. 9.0% of DCIS have a risk of <12.0%, 54.6% of DCIS have a predicted risk of <15.0% and 26.0% have a risk of >25.0%.



Supplement 4: Predicted risk for each combination of risk factors

Of 2892 DCIS diagnoses at biopsy, 596 were underestimated invasive breast cancers.

Below are the tumour characteristics, based on the excisional specimens of these 596 cancers.

	N	%
Morphology	596	
Lobular	14	2%
Ductal	531	89%
Mixed Ductal and Lobular	29	5%
Other	22	4%
Grade of the invasive tumour	534	
I	165	31%
II	225	42%
III	144	27%
ER receptor	542	
Negative	106	20%
Positive	436	80%
PR receptor	542	
Negative	206	38%
Positive	336	62%
Her2Neu	524	
Negative	386	74%
Positive	138	26%
Receptor combinations	520	
ER - PR - Her2Neu -	39	8%
ER + Her2Neu -	343	66%
ER - PR - Her2Neu +	61	12%
ER + Her2Neu +	75	14%
ER - PR +	2	<1%
Tumour size (in mm)	570	
mean - median (range)	9.5 - 6 (0 - 90)	
TNM stage	596	
I A	460	77%
I B	16	3%
II A	73	12%
II B	22	4%
III A	16	3%
III B	0	0%
III C	9	1%
IV	0	0%