

**THE DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC
POTENTIALS OF CA 15.3 AS A TUMOUR
MARKER IN PATIENTS WITH
BREAST CANCER**

Thesis

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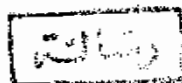
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To my mother's soul

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	:	Alpha Fetoprotein.
APR	:	Acute phase reactants.
BH CG	:	Beta Human Chorionic Gonadotropin.
B.S	:	Bone Scanning
CA 15.3	:	Cancer Antigen 15.3.
Cath D	:	Cathepsin D.
CEA	:	Carcinoembryonic Antigen.
CIS	:	Carcinoma In Situ.
CR	:	Complete response.
CT/M	:	Computed Tomography Mammography.
EIA	:	Enzyme Immunoassay.
EMA	:	Epithelial Membrane Antigen.
FNAB	:	Fine needle Aspiration Biopsy.
IDC	:	Infiltrating ductal Carcinoma.
ILC	:	Infiltrating Lobular Carcinoma.
IRMA	:	Immuno radiometric Assay.
LCIS	:	Lobular Carcinoma In Situ.
MCA	:	Mucinous Carcinoma Antigen.
MRI	:	Magnetic Resonance Imaging.
MSA	:	Mammary Serum Antigen.
n	:	Number.
NED	:	No evidence of disease.
ng/ml	:	Nanogram per milliliter.
NHCl	:	Normal hydrochloric acid.
nm	:	Nano meter.
NOS	:	Not otherwise specified.

P	:	Probability.
PAP	:	Prostatic acid phosphatase.
POA	:	Pancreatic oncofetal antigen.
PSA	:	Prostatic specific antigen.
RIA	:	Radio immunoassay.
S.D	:	Standard deviation.
SD	:	Stable disease.
TPA	:	Tissue polypeptide antigen.
U/ml	:	Unit per milliliter.
W.H.O	:	World health organization.
>	:	more than.
<	:	less than.
μl		Microliter.

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**INTRODUCTION
AND
AIM OF THE WORK**

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer is one of the commonest cancers which affect females and continued to be the leading cause of death from cancer in women (Contesso & Tawfik, 1984).

In the united states breast cancer is extremely common disease. About 120.000 cases are diagnosed annually. Fewer than 10% of patients will present with advanced disease and about 40% of patients will develop metastatic disease despite advances in early diagnosis, local treatment, and adjuvant therapy. A ten years report (1970 - 1981) from the national cancer institute in Cairo showed that breast cancer is the most frequent malignancy among females presenting to the institute, accounting for 34.7% of all female cancer cases and 14% of all cases of cancer registered (Contesso & Tawfik, 1984).

Breast cancer still stands as a handicap in front of surgeons who aim at cure. Diversity of biological behaviour and lines of management, reflect the unique behaviour of this type of malignancy. The only remaining hope is the full study of other aspects of this disease that may help to alter the unsatisfactory results achieved up till now. Thanks to the many biological, biomolecular and endocrinological implications, breast cancer appears to be one of the most promising fields of investigation, from which most of scientists expect fundamental discoveries to be made, that can be then applied to other oncological areas (Contesso & Tawfik, 1984).

Although we all feel frustrated by the bitter knowledge that the real causes of breast cancer are still unknown and that very little can be done