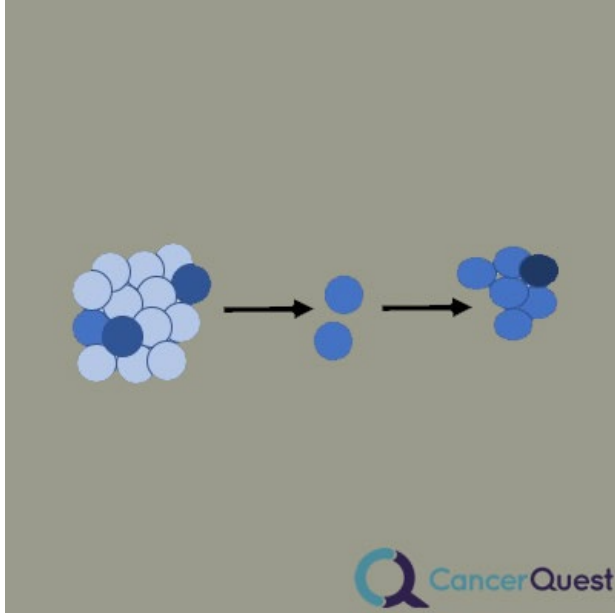


How Breast Cancer Resists Treatment

Printed from <https://www.cancerquest.org/newsroom/2017/06/how-breast-cancer-resists-treatment> on 04/06/2026



One of the most common drugs used to treat breast cancer is tamoxifen. It works by blocking the activity of estrogen, reducing the growth of cancer cells. Despite the success of tamoxifen, many cancers eventually become resistant to its effects. The resistance has been shown to be linked to mitochondria, small cellular structures that are the source of cellular energy. Specifically the resistance was linked to the activity of a single gene - NQO1. Importantly, inhibitors of NQO1 exist, and testing showed that tamoxifen resistance was reversible in a lab model, opening up the possibility of reversing drug resistance in humans.

Source

[Read the story from the University of Salford](#)

Learn More

[Learn more about cancer drug resistance.](#)