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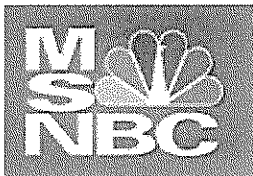
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# Children who eat fries raise breast cancer risk

## Frequent servings at ages 3-5 increased later chance of disease in study

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Updated: 6:25 p.m. ET Aug. 18, 2005

WASHINGTON - Very young children who eat French fries frequently have a much higher risk of breast cancer as adults, U.S. researchers reported.

A study of American nurses found that one additional serving of fries per week at ages three to five increased breast cancer risk by 27 percent.

"Researchers are finding more evidence that diet early in life could play a role in the development of diseases in women later in life," said Dr. Karin Michels, of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School, who led the study.

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Very young children who eat French fries frequently have a much higher risk of breast cancer as adults, U.S. researchers reported.

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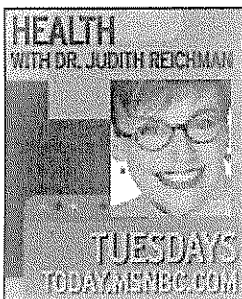
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"This study provides additional evidence that breast cancer may originate during the early phases of a woman's life and that eating habits during that phase may be particularly important to reduce future risk of breast cancer."

For their study, Michels and colleagues used an

ongoing survey of female registered nurses. They studied 582 women with breast cancer and 1,569 women free of breast cancer in 1993.

Writing in the International Journal of Cancer, the researchers said they looked at the women's diets and at questionnaires filled out by the mothers of the participants.

One risk factor for breast cancer stood out: women whose mothers said their daughters ate French fries had a higher risk of breast cancer. The risk was increased by 27 percent for each weekly serving reportedly eaten.

"These data have to be interpreted cautiously since the observed association between consumption of French fries and breast cancer is dependent on the validity of the maternal recall of the diet," said Michels.

"Mothers were asked to recall their daughter's preschool diet after the participants' breast cancer status was known and it is possible that mothers of women with breast cancer recalled their daughter's diet differently than mothers of healthy women," she added.