

Mayo Clinic Minute

Vaccine being tested that may help prevent breast cancer

Video	Audio
	Could a vaccine one day be given to prevent breast cancer?
Amy Degnim, M.D. Surgery Mayo Clinic	"If we're able to have the immune system trained to recognize abnormal cells or cancerous, precancerous cells, then maybe the immune system can eliminate them before they ever develop."
	Mayo Clinic surgeon Dr. Amy Degnim is on the team that's evaluating a vaccine against the HER2 protein, which is found in the majority of women with a noninvasive breast cancer called 'ductal carcinoma in situ,' or 'DCIS.'
	"DCIS is an abnormal growth of cells that occurs within the ducts of the breast, and these cells then can have the potential to grow into an invasive cancer but may not."
	Dr. Degnim says evaluating this vaccine in women with DCIS is an important step toward the ultimate goal.
	"In the future, we would love to be able to give a vaccine to prevent breast cancer in healthy women so that breast cancer is a thing of the past."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Susan Buckles.