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## Fat and Breast Cancer

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To the Editor:

A new study that finds no link between fat in the diet and breast cancer (news article, Feb. 8) is the latest in a series of studies that exculpate fat per se as a cause of breast cancer.

However, such studies overlook the association between high-fat and high-calorie diets and their association with obesity, which has increased sharply.

All these factors are strongly linked to the early onset of menstruation and late menopause, accompanied by prolonged and often elevated levels of exposure to estrogens, both of which are well-recognized risk factors.

As important, such studies have failed to investigate or even consider the role of carcinogenic and estrogenic pesticides and other industrial contaminants in animal fats and dairy products that have been incriminated as breast cancer risk factors.

SAMUEL S. EPSTEIN, M.D.  
Chmn., Cancer Prevention Coalition  
Chicago, Feb. 9, 1996