

## Weekly Homework 4

### Blood biopsies offer early warning of cancer's return

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The following news comes from Harvard Gazette, an internal and official publication from the Ivy League institution, Harvard University. In this publication, there can be found news about topics such as Arts, Economics, Health or Photography. Most of those news are concentrated on inside campus results, but there are also some coming from the outside world.

The chosen article is called 'Blood biopsies offer early warning of cancer's return' and it basically describes the procedure which can be done to several patients from blood samples in order to detect the DNA structure for hundreds of possible cancer mutations. Thanks to this procedure, patients could be warned in advance that what they've toughed to be cured will actually come back. Also, they discuss how cancer is in most of the time more aggressive when it comes back since those leftovers that remain in the organism usually led to metastases, and how the current technology can't tell if it eliminated entirely the disease.

The published article which thoroughly analysis this idea tests its idea on breast cancer patients. What they bring new to the table is a personalized blood test. For each patient from their database in the past 13 years, they took a sample from the corresponding tumor and search back in time its DNA sequence in that person's blood samples. Thus, they've shown that cancer could have been detected with much time in advance of its returning. Another important thing that they've noticed is that their most accurate results were present for patients that had cancer comebacks in the first three years after their surgery.