# Cold Caps Study-Incidence of chemotherapy-induced alopecia in breast cancer patients: effectiveness of two temperature levels.

Breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer in women. In 2015 it is estimated 15,600 women in Australia will be diagnosed with breast cancer, two thirds of which will be between 40 and 69 years old.

A significant factor concerning women that need to undergo chemotherapy is the potential for hair loss during treatment. BCRC-WA is investigating the potential mitigation of this through an exciting treatment initiative.

BCRC-WA will be commencing a new clinical trial which will look at the Incidence of chemotherapy-induced alopecia in breast cancer patients. Thanks to the generous donation from Ashley and Martin Pty Ltd who donated funds for the purchase of the Dignitana DigniCap Machine, it has allowed the trial to commence on target in December 2015. We are also extremely grateful for donations that have gone towards the conduct of this trial so far from the wider community.

Scalp cooling devices are commonly used in Europe and North America for some patients, but predicting the effectiveness and understanding long-term safety is not well-established in women undergoing contemporary chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer. This research project will enable us to obtain important data relating to effectiveness of the device and the long-term safety while offering WA-women with breast cancer the opportunity to avoid losing their hair or minimize the amount of hair loss during chemotherapy treatment.

We intend enrolling 60 patients to participate in the trial, each patient enrolled will wear a type of silicon cap which cools the scalp whilst they receive each cycle of chemotherapy. All women who enter the study will be randomly allocated to wear the device at one of two temperature settings (one slightly cooler than the other).

Ashley & Martin
Medical Hair Centres

The study not only has the potential to benefit the patients who participate, but it will also provide accurate information as to how successful this device is for contemporary chemotherapy drugs which are now commonly used in Australia for breast cancer treatment. Furthermore, the study will collect detailed information on what side effects exist with the use of the cooling device – both short-term and long-term.

*Link to further study information*