Preface

We know you really don't want to be here, reading about this subject. Few things frighten a woman more than discovering a lump in one of her breasts. With good reason: breast cancer may transform a woman's breast into the vehicle of her death. The disease has brought into being an entire industry of research organizations, charitable agencies, commercial ventures, and advocacy groups. Every new statistics is trumpeted in the media, and every encouraging research finding, no matter how tenuous, is held up as a potential breakthrough. The improvements in women's lives have indirectly promoted breast cancer. The "epidemic" of breast cancer, may be an unwanted accompaniment to what most of us view as social and material progress.

It is known that to add to the agony of the disease, there is the problem of metastasis, which is inseparable from the ailment. In breast cancer, the rate of incidence of metastasis is high and this decreases the lifespan of the patients. Additionally, there is the invasion of malignancy to lymph nodes which is a peculiar feature of breast cancer. From an intellectual point of view, metastasis is an amazing phenomenon. If a surgeon inserted a microscopic clump of normal cells from a woman's breast into another organ, the body's defense systems would wipe out the misplaced normal cells almost instantly. Yet cancer cells that split off from the main tumor and lodge elsewhere in the body not only survive but can grow exuberantly. For this reason most doctors believe that the best method for stopping breast cancer is to detect it before it has spread. Find the problem while it is still small and isolated—that is the hope.

Currently, a number of investigators around the world are looking into the intricate problem of cancer metastasis. Efforts are directed towards dissecting the crucial steps in the elaborate cascade, identifying new targets for anti-metastatic therapy and detection of people at high risk for developing metastatic breast cancer.
In this study, there is a very simple but sincere effort to unravel some of the mysteries of the process of deadly cancer metastasis. Whatever arose from the present study, building on the results of previous studies and hunting for new interpretations from the present results have been briefly presented in the subsequent pages.

I hope, the results of the study will be of help in making therapeutic decisions, designing new drugs and analyzing the prognosis of breast cancer patients.