Original research

Clinical applicability of the Polygenic Risk Score for breast cancer risk prediction in familial cases

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ABSTRACT

Background Common low-risk variants are presently not used to guide clinical management of familial breast cancer (BC). We explored the additive impact of a 313-variant-based Polygenic Risk Score (PRS_{313}) relative to standard gene testing in non-*BRCA1/2* Dutch BC families.

Methods We included 3918 BC cases from 3492 Dutch non-*BRCA1/2* BC families and 3474 Dutch population controls. The association of the standardised PRS_{313} with BC was estimated using a logistic regression model, adjusted for pedigree-based family history. Family history of the controls was imputed for this analysis. SEs were corrected to account for relatedness of individuals. Using the BOADICEA (Breast and Ovarian Analysis of Disease Incidence and Carrier Estimation Algorithm) V.5 model, lifetime risks were retrospectively calculated with and without individual PRS_{313}. For 2586 cases and 2584 controls, the carrier status of pathogenic variants (PVs) in *ATM*, *CHEK2* and *PALB2* was known.

Results The family history-adjusted PRS_{313} was significantly associated with BC (per SD OR=1.97, 95% CI 1.84 to 2.11). Including the PRS_{313} in BOADICEA family-based risk prediction would have changed screening recommendations in up to 27%, 36% and 34% of cases according to BC screening guidelines from the USA, UK and the Netherlands (National Comprehensive Cancer Network, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, and Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation), respectively. For the population controls, without information on family history, this was up to 39%, 44% and 58%, respectively. Among carriers of PVs in known moderate BC susceptibility genes, the PRS_{313} had the largest impact for *CHEK2* and *ATM*.

Conclusions Our results support the application of the PRS_{313} in risk prediction for genetically uninformative BC families and families with a PV in moderate BC risk genes.

WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

⇒ The Polygenic Risk Score (PRS) is useful in stratifying women into different risk categories but is presently not used to guide clinical management of familial breast cancer (BC).

WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

⇒ Including the PRS_{313} in addition to family history-based risk prediction may change screening recommendations in up to 34% of individuals from BC families with no pathogenic variant in any of the five BC genes modelled in BOADICEA (Breast and Ovarian Analysis of Disease Incidence and Carrier Estimation Algorithm) and up to 18% and 26% for *ATM* and *CHEK2* pathogenic variant carriers, respectively.

HOW THIS STUDY MIGHT AFFECT RESEARCH, PRACTICE OR POLICY

⇒ This study supports the implementation of a comprehensive risk prediction and shows the impact on clinical management recommendations for women from BC families as seen in the context of clinical genetic services.

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer (BC) is the most common cancer among women.[1] Current screening strategies to reduce the burden of the disease have several disadvantages, including overdiagnosis.[2] By taking into account all relevant risk factors, personalised estimation of risk of BC could help to target preventive measures to those who would benefit the most and to reduce screening for women in the lowest risk categories.

One of the main risk factors for BC is having a positive family history of the disease.[3] The familial relative risk of ∼2 is partly explained by germline pathogenic variants (PVs) in the BC susceptibility genes *BRCA1/2*, *PALB2*, *ATM* and *CHEK2*. Furthermore, another important part is explained by common low-risk variants,[4 5] which if summarised in the Polygenic Risk Score (PRS) are useful in stratifying the population into different risk categories.[5 6]

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A similar stratification of risk of BC by the PRS is observed in the familial setting,[7–10] providing an opportunity to personalise risk and clinical management of women from BC families who are seen at clinical genetic services. Furthermore, the PRS can be useful in refining the risk of women carrying a PV in *BRCA1/2*, *PALB2*, *CHEK2* or *ATM*.[11–14] However, using the PRS for risk prediction is not yet implemented in the practice of genetic counselling for familial BC in the Netherlands.

Currently, risk prediction for women from non-*BRCA1/2* BC families is mainly based on family history, which can be calculated by various well-validated risk prediction algorithms,[15 16] such as the Breast and Ovarian Analysis of Disease Incidence and Carrier Estimation Algorithm (BOADICEA).[17] Several studies have shown improved discriminative power between BC cases and controls by combining the PRS with other risk factors in a BC risk prediction tool.[18–21] Previously, we showed that in a selected group of high-risk non-*BRCA1/2* BC families, a 161-variant PRS alone would have led 20% of women to receive different screening recommendations based on the Dutch screening guideline (Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation (IKNL) guideline).[22] Currently, an established PRS based on 313 variants (PRS_{313})[5] is one of the several PRS incorporated in the validated, comprehensive risk prediction model BOADICEA,[17] which was recently made easily accessible to clinicians through the CanRisk webtool.[23]

Here, we explore the clinical applicability of the PRS_{313} for risk prediction in a new cohort of 3918 familial Dutch BC cases who tested negative in a diagnostic setting for PVs in *BRCA1/2* and of whom the majority were evaluated for PVs in *PALB2*, *CHEK2* and *ATM* in a research setting. The clinical impact of the PRS_{313} on BC risk prediction based on family history and PV carrier status was investigated by determining the potential change in clinical management, as stipulated by three currently used guidelines (National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN),[24] National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE),[25] and IKNL guidelines).[22]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We used the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology case–control checklist when writing our report.[26]

Study cohorts

Dutch familial BC cases, henceforth 'cases', were derived from three different cohorts: the Hereditary Breast and Ovarian cancer study in the Netherlands (HEBON),[27] the Amsterdam Breast Cancer Study-Familial (ABCS-F),[28] and the Rotterdam Breast Cancer Study (RBCS)[29] (online supplemental methods). All three studies included participants who visited a clinical genetic centre in the Netherlands for familial BC counselling. During this counselling, a DNA test was performed according to the clinical guidelines applicable at the time. Women with BC who met the following criteria were eligible for this study: (1) negative DNA test result for *BRCA1/2* PVs; (2) family without *BRCA1/2* PVs; (3) available DNA sample or genotyping data; (4) European ancestry based on genotyping data; and (5) available pedigree. In total, 3918 cases were included (online supplemental figure S1). All cancers were verified by linkage to the Dutch Cancer Registry and the Pathological Anatomical National Automated Archive (HEBON cases) or by clinical confirmation from medical records in the hospital (ABCS-F and RBCS cases).

In total, 3474 Dutch population controls of age 18 years or older were included. These controls were healthy female blood donors (ABCS, Oorsprong van borstkanker integraal onderzocht (ORIGO)) or healthy women who were included after DNA diagnostic testing for cystic fibrosis carrier status (RBCS)[4 29] for which age of last follow-up was known. For the ABCS and ORIGO control cohorts, BC status was known to be negative at age of last follow-up. For the RBCS control cohort, BC status was unknown. In total, 2584 controls were known to be negative for *BRCA1/2* PVs. For the remaining 890 controls, *BRCA1/2* status was unknown.

Informed consent was obtained from all included cases. All controls were anonymised.

Gene panel

As part of the BRIDGES project (Breast cancer RIsk after Diagnostic GEne Sequencing), 2586 cases and 2584 controls were sequenced for a panel of 34 genes, as described elsewhere.[30] For all controls and 2037 cases, we received variant call files of all 34 genes, including their last exons. Truncating and missense variants were reported as described previously.[30] In summary, pathogenic truncating variants were defined as frameshift insertions/deletions, stop/gain or canonical splice variants as classified by the Ensembl Variant Effect Predictor,[31] with the exception of variants in the last exon of each gene. In our study, we included truncating variants in the last exon of *PALB2* as this exon encodes an important functional domain and variants in this exon were shown to destabilise the resulting *PALB2* protein.[32] Missense variants were included if their frequency in the gnomAD database or among the BRIDGES project control data set[30] was below 0.001. For genes with evidence of an association with BC,[30] pathogenicity was reported for missense variants based on the ClinVar archive.[33] Variants that were classified as (likely) pathogenic by at least one submitter were manually curated by two experts according to the ACMG/ACP (American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics/American College of Physicians) variant classification guidelines. For the remaining 549 cases, however, only pseudo-anonymised results of truncating variants in the three additional BC genes, *ATM*, *CHEK2* and *PALB2*, were received, excluding truncating variants in the last exon.

Genotyping and imputation

The DNA samples of all included individuals were genotyped for common variants with either the iCOGS,[34] OncoArray[4] or Global Screening Array (GSA), containing 211 155, 499 170 and 642 824 SNPs, respectively. Genotyping and quality control of the samples genotyped with iCOGS and OncoArray were performed as part of association studies conducted by the Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC).[4 34] Genotyping and quality control of the samples genotyped with the GSA are described in the online supplemental methods.

The variants that were not directly genotyped were imputed using the Michigan Imputation Server,[35] using the Haplotype Reference Consortium (HRC) V.1.1 reference panel,[36] including both the reference panels 1000 Genomes Phase 3 and Genome of the Netherlands.[37 38] In total, 72 of the 313 variants could not be imputed with the HRC V.1.1 reference panel and were imputed with the 1000 Genomes Phase 3 reference panel only[38] (online supplemental table S1).

Polygenic Risk Score

The PRS was calculated as described previously.[5] The three PRS (for overall BC, estrogen receptor (ER)-positive BC and ER-negative BC) were calculated for all included individuals.

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Table 1 Characteristics of the participants

	Population controls	Family-based cases	Family-based cases: subset*
n	3474	3918	1968
Families		3492	1602
Relatives per family included			
1	3474	3099	1263
2	0	364	309
3	0	25	25
4	0	4	3
Study			
ABCS	1563	904	82
HEBON	0	2248	1671
ORIGO	987	0	0
RBCS	924	766	215
Array			
GSA		1781	1781
iCOGS	2388	1680	163
OncoArray	1086	457	24
Age			
Mean	45.6	45.1	46.8
Range	18–93	21–91	21–91
First breast cancer			
Invasive	NA	3575	1630
In situ	NA	312	308
Unknown	NA	31	30
ER status			
Positive	NA	1755	927
Negative	NA	488	213
Unknown	NA	1675	828
Second breast tumour (n)	NA	719	327
Age			
Mean	NA	52.6	52.9
Range	NA	26–80	26–79
Unknown	NA	130	29
Invasiveness			
Invasive	NA	460	220
In situ	NA	116	77
Unknown	NA	144	30
ER status			
Positive	NA	290	153
Negative	NA	49	21
Unknown	NA	380	153
Gene panel results			
All	2584	2586	1586
No PV	2537	2369	1463
CHEK2 PV	31	167	98
ATM PV	9	39	18
CHEK2+ATM PV	0	2	1
PALB2 PV†	7	10	6
Standardised PRS_{313} (SD)			
Overall BC	0 (1.03)	0.71 (0.96)	0.64 (0.88)
ER+ BC	0 (1.03)	0.72 (0.97)	0.65 (0.88)
ER– BC	0 (1.01)	0.45 (0.94)	0.29 (0.85)
$BOADICEA_{FH}$			
Mean (SD)	0 (0.99)	0.55 (0.39)	0.69 (0.35)
Affected FDR			
0	NA	1125	
1	NA	1454	
2	NA	555	
>2	NA	176	
Affected SDR			
0	NA	1360	
1	NA	1086	
2	NA	583	
>2	NA	281	
Unknown	NA	615	

*Cases included in the association analyses which were not part of the development data set for the PRS_{313} as described in Mavaddat *et al*.[5]
†Excluding variants in the last exon of *PALB2* to make it uniform for all 2586 cases.
ABCS, Amsterdam Breast Cancer Study; BC, breast cancer; $BOADICEA_{FH}$, polygenic load calculated in the Breast and Ovarian Analysis of Disease Incidence and Carrier Estimation Algorithm; ER, Estrogen Receptor; FDR, first-degree relatives; GSA, Global Screening Array; HEBON, Hereditary Breast and Ovarian cancer study in the Netherlands; n, number of individuals; NA, Not Applicable; ORIGO, Oorsprong van borstkanker integraal onderzocht; PRS, Polygenic Risk Score; PV, pathogenic variant; RBCS, Rotterdam Breast Cancer Study; SDR, second-degree relatives.

The variants and their corresponding weights used in the PRS as published previously[5] and the imputation quality are listed in online supplemental table S1. The PRS for each individual was standardised to the mean of all population controls in this study and to the SD in the BCAC population controls that were included in the validation data set.[5] These SDs were 0.6093, 0.6520 and 0.5920 for the overall BC PRS, ER-positive BC PRS and ER-negative BC PRS, respectively. Using these SDs, the OR estimates for the associations of the standardised PRS_{313} in our study are directly comparable with the OR estimates reported in the BCAC population-based study.[5]

Pedigree collection

Pedigrees were collected for all families and were drawn previously in the clinical genetic centres during counselling and DNA diagnostic testing of *BRCA1/2* PVs. The pedigrees were used as they were drawn in the clinic, including at least all known first-degree and second-degree relatives of the genotyped individuals. Imputation of missing data is described in the online supplemental methods.

Family history score

A model-based family history score for BC, also called the 'polygenic load', was derived from the BOADICEA V.3 model based on the available pedigree, as described previously.[7] The polygenic load in BOADICEA is a latent polygenetic component representing the combined effect of a large number of variants, each of small effect to capture the residual familial aggregation of BC and is therefore a measure of the BC family history,[7 10] henceforth referred to as $BOADICEA_{FH}$. No pedigree or family history data were available for the controls. Therefore, $BOADICEA_{FH}$ was imputed based on the distribution of $BOADICEA_{FH}$ (normally distributed with mean=0 and SD=1).

BC lifetime risk

As all cases had developed BC, the lifetime risks of developing a first breast tumour were calculated for all included individuals with the BOADICEA V.5 model,[17] simulating an individual to be aged 1 year and unaffected. Initial lifetime risks ($BOADICEA_{ILR}$) were calculated based on *BRCA* status (all negative), pedigree

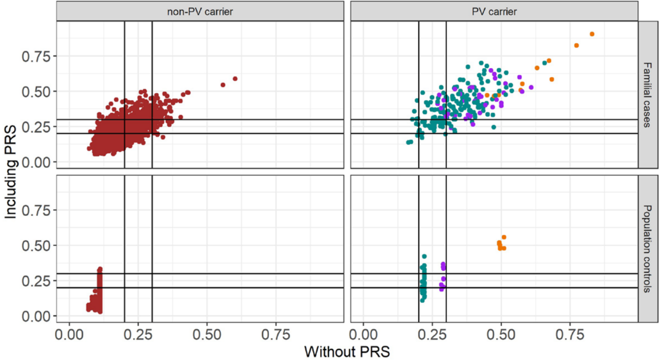

Figure 1 Change in individual breast cancer lifetime risk after including the PRS_{313}. Scatter plot of the change in breast cancer lifetime risk. For every individual, $BOADICEA_{ILR}$ was plotted against $BOADICEA_{PRS313}$. Non-carriers do not have a pathogenic variant in *ATM*, *CHEK2* or *PALB2* in addition to *BRCA1/2*. The solid lines represent the 20% and 30% breast cancer lifetime risk cut-off levels based on the Dutch IKNL breast cancer screening guideline.[22] BOADICEA, Breast and Ovarian Analysis of Disease Incidence and Carrier Estimation Algorithm; $BOADICEA_{ILR}$, initial breast cancer lifetime risk at age 80 based on *BRCA* status (all negative), *CHEK2*, *ATM* and *PALB2* status (if applicable), pedigree information (for cases), and birth year. $BOADICEA_{PRS313}$, breast cancer lifetime risk at age 80 including the PRS_{313} in addition to initial breast cancer lifetime risk; IKNL, Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation; PRS, Polygenic Risk Score; PV, pathogenic variant.

information (for cases) as described above and birth year. The *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutation detection sensitivity in BOADICEA was set at 0.9. For individuals in whom information regarding PVs in the BC genes *CHEK2*, *PALB2* and *ATM* was available, initial risks included the PV carrier status of these genes as well. To make it uniform for all included cases, PVs in the last exon of *PALB2* were ignored. The initial lifetime risks were compared with the lifetime risks calculated with the above information and the PRS_{313} ($BOADICEA_{PRS313}$).

Statistical analysis

The BC lifetime risks for cases and controls with ($BOADICEA_{PRS313}$) and without ($BOADICEA_{ILR}$) inclusion of the PRS_{313} were compared to define the change in risk category and thus advice for BC surveillance according to three different guidelines: NICE,[25] NCCN[24] and IKNL.[22]

To define how much of the variance in the PRS_{313} is explained by family history in this study, the degree of correlation between the standardised PRS_{313} and the $BOADICEA_{FH}$ for cases was determined by the Pearson correlation coefficient. This coefficient was calculated as well to estimate the linear correlation between the PRS_{313} of the proband (ie, youngest BC diagnosis) and the PRS_{313} of other affected family members. If more than two family members were included, the average PRS_{313} of the family members was used. The association between overall BC (first breast tumour, invasive or in situ) and the PRS_{313} was determined with logistic regression using generalised estimating equations, adjusting for age and family history ($BOADICEA_{FH}$). SEs were corrected to account for relatedness of individuals using a robust estimator of the variance. To reduce overfitting, association analyses included only cases that were not part of the development data set for the PRS_{313}, as described in Mavaddat *et al*.[5]

In a secondary analysis, we determined the association of the PRS_{313} with invasive and in situ BC risk separately. Cases that developed an invasive BC after the development of an in situ BC were only included in the invasive BC analysis with the age of diagnosis of the invasive breast tumour. Two of these cases were excluded because the age of diagnosis of invasive breast tumour was unknown.

In addition, the association between risk of BC and the prevalence of a truncating variant in each of the 34 genes included in the BRIDGES gene panel[30] was determined with a two-sided Fisher's exact test.

Statistical significance was established at 5%. Analysis was performed using R V.4.0.3.[39]

RESULTS

The analyses included 3918 cases from 3492 families and 3474 female population controls. In the association analyses, a subset of cases were included, that is, those not included previously in the development data set of the PRS_{313}.[5] These comprised 1968 cases from 1602 families (online supplemental figure S1 and table 1).

The characteristics of the included cases and controls are shown in table 1. The mean age at last follow-up for controls and age at diagnosis for cases was similar, 45 years, with an age range between 18 and 93 years. Most of the included cases had an invasive breast tumour (91%), 8% an in situ breast tumour and 1% a tumour of unknown invasiveness. Of all included cases, 18% developed a second breast tumour. The standardised PRS_{313} was higher for cases compared with controls, with a mean of 0.71 (SD=0.96) compared with 0 for controls (SD=1.03). The distribution curves and descriptives of the standardised PRS_{313}, ER-positive PRS_{313} and ER-negative PRS_{313} are shown in online supplemental figures S2 and S3 and online supplemental tables S2 and S3. In total, 218 (8.4%) cases and 47 (1.8%) controls were carriers of a truncating PV in either *ATM*, *CHEK2* or *PALB2*, excluding PVs in the last exon.

Gene panel results

The BRIDGES study[30] completed sequencing for 2037 cases with clinical data and 2584 controls. Truncating (likely) PVs were found in 22 of 34 genes for 227 (11.1%) cases and 105 (4.1%) controls (online supplemental table S4). The majority (6.4% of cases, 1.2% of controls) had a truncating variant in *CHEK2,* which, in all except one, was the founder PV c.1100delC. In addition, truncating variants were relatively frequently found in *ATM*, *FANCM* and *PALB2* (1.8%, 0.7% and 0.6% of cases and 0.3%, 0.6% and 0.3% of controls, respectively). The number of (pathogenic) missense variants is listed in online supplemental table S5.

PRS-based individualised risk score

Adding the PRS_{313} into the BOADICEA model ($BOADICEA_{PRS313}$) changed the absolute lifetime risk of almost all women (figure 1) to a maximum of 34.5% for cases and to a maximum of 22.1% for controls (online supplemental figure S4 and online supplemental table S6). Clinically relevant shifts, that is, from one to another screening category, based on the IKNL,[22] NICE[25] or NCCN[24] guidelines, were 32.4%, 36.0% and 25.7%, respectively, for 1331 cases without a gene test result (ie, only tested negative for a *BRCA1/2* PV in diagnostic setting) (table 2 and online supplemental tables S7 and S8). Similar results were seen for 2369 cases that were known non-carriers of a PV in *PALB2*, *CHEK2* and *ATM*. In both groups and all age categories, a higher percentage of cases shifted to the moderate-risk and high-risk category compared with the lowest risk category

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Table 2 Breast cancer lifetime risk category change based on the IKNL guideline

Group	BOADICEA lifetime risk		No gene test result		Non-PV carriers		*CHEK2* PV carriers*		*ATM* PV carriers*		*PALB2* PV carriers	
	Without PRS_{313} (%)	Including PRS_{313} (%)	n	% change	n	% change	n	% change	n	% change	n	% change
Cases	<20	<20	697	30.4	1126	30.1	3	70.0	NA		NA	
		>20	305		486		7					
	20–30	20–30	161	42.5	376	43.5	27	52.6	0	100.0	NA	
		<20	37		149		4		0			
		>30	82		141		26		5			
	>30	>30	42	14.3	65	28.6	93	7.0	32	5.9	10	0.0
		<30	7		26		7		2		0	
	Overall change			32.4		33.9		26.3		17.9		0.0
	Upward change			29.1		26.4		19.8		12.8		0.0
Controls	<20	<20	851	4.4	2429	4.7	NA		NA		NA	
		>20	39		118							
	20–30	20–30	NA		NA		13	58.1	4	55.6	NA	
		<20					12		1			
		>30					6		4			
	>30	>30	NA		NA		NA		NA		7	0.0
		<30									0	
	Overall change			4.4		4.7		58.1		55.6		0.0
	Upward change			4.4		4.7		19.4		44.4		0.0

In total, 1331 cases and 890 controls were included without a gene test result; 2369 cases and 2537 controls in the non-PV carrier group; 167 cases and 31 controls in the *CHEK2* PV carrier group; 39 cases and 9 controls in the *ATM* PV carrier group; and 10 cases and 7 controls in the *PALB2* PV carrier group.
*Two individuals with both a pathogenic variant in *CHEK2* and *ATM* were excluded.
BOADICEA, Breast and Ovarian Analysis of Disease Incidence and Carrier Estimation Algorithm; IKNL, Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation; NA, Not Applicable; PRS, Polygenic Risk Score; PV, pathogenic variant.

(online supplemental table S9). Change towards higher risk categories was less frequent in controls than in cases (online supplemental tables S7 and S8). For cases carrying a PV in *ATM* or *CHEK2*, the proportions changing risk category were 26.3% and 17.9%, respectively, for IKNL, and 23.4% and 17.9% for NICE guidelines, but substantially lower based on the NCCN guideline (6.7% and 0.0%); this was due to the single cut-off point of 20% in the NCCN guideline. The 10 *PALB2* PV carriers in the study did not change risk category based on any of the three guidelines.

Of the 890 controls without a gene test result for *ATM*, *CHEK2* or *PALB2* status, 4.4%, 12.0% and 4.4% changed to another risk category based on the IKNL, NICE and NCCN guidelines, respectively. Similar results were seen for the group where no PV was found. For *CHEK2* PV carriers, and to a lesser extent *ATM* PV carriers, these percentages were higher. Similar to cases, no change in risk category was seen for the seven controls with a *PALB2* PV carrier with either of the three guidelines.

The distributions of the absolute lifetime risk after including the PRS_{313} for all groups ($BOADICEA_{PRS313}$) are shown in online supplemental figure S5.

Correlation analysis

For cases, there was a very weak correlation between the PRS_{313} and the $BOADICEA_{FH}$ ($r=0.053$, $p=8.23\times10^{-4}$); only 0.3% of the variance in the PRS_{313} is explained by family history. This poor correlation is visualised in online supplemental figures S6 and S7, where respectively the continuous and categorical $BOADICEA_{FH}$ are shown versus the PRS_{313}.

In contrast, there was a significant correlation between the PRS_{313} of the 393 probands and that of their affected family members ($r=0.333$, $p=1.00\times10^{-11}$; figure 2).

Association analyses of PRS and BC

The PRS_{313} was significantly associated with overall BC (OR per SD=1.97, 95% CI 1.84 to 2.11, $p\leq2.00\times10^{-16}$) (table 3 and online supplemental figure S8). The analyses per decile followed the trend for the continuous PRS_{313}, despite the CIs of the two lowest and highest categories not overlapping with the continuous line (table 3 and online supplemental figure S9).

Secondary analyses for invasive BC showed similar results. In situ BC was also significantly associated with the PRS_{313} (OR=1.69, 95% CI 1.50 to 1.89, $p\leq2.00\times10^{-16}$) (table 3 and online supplemental figure S8).

DISCUSSION

In this study, we have shown that including a well-validated PRS for BC based on 313 variants[5] leads to substantially different patient stratification from current clinical practice, in which only family history is included in risk prediction. This supports the implementation of the PRS_{313} in standard care for individuals

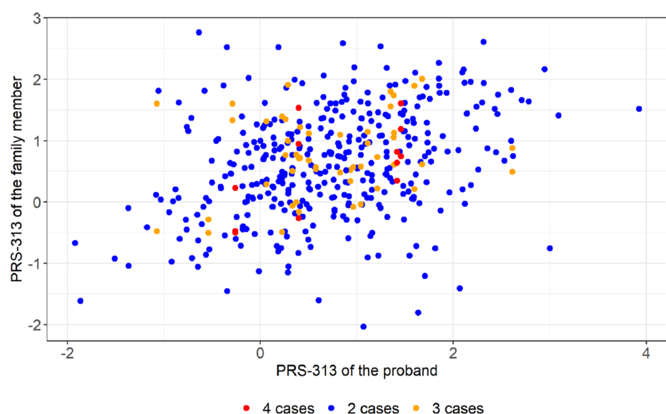

Figure 2 Correlation between the PRS_{313} of the proband and their family members. Scatter plot of the PRS_{313} of the proband (youngest breast cancer diagnosis) and their family members. Families with two individuals included are shown as blue dots, three individuals included with orange dots and four individuals included with red dots. PRS, Polygenic Risk Score.

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Table 3 Results of the association analyses between breast cancer and the PRS_{313}

	Cases (n)	OR	95% CI	P value
Main analysis				
Overall breast cancer	1968	1.97	1.84 to 2.11	$<2.00\times10^{-16}$
Secondary analyses*				
Invasive breast cancer	1701	2.00	1.86 to 2.15	$<2.00\times10^{-16}$
In situ breast cancer	262	1.69	1.50 to 1.89	$<2.00\times10^{-16}$
Categorical PRS_{313}†				
0–10	21	0.10	0.06 to 0.17	$<2.00\times10^{-16}$
10–20	58	0.30	0.21 to 0.42	2.30×10^{-11}
20–40	222	0.66	0.52 to 0.82	2.20×10^{-04}
40–60 (reference)	354	1.00	NA	NA
60–80	491	1.37	1.13 to 1.66	1.10×10^{-3}
80–90	396	2.27	1.84 to 2.79	1.10×10^{-14}
90–100	426	2.29	1.86 to 2.83	8.90×10^{-15}

*Individuals with unknown invasiveness (n=3) and individuals with unknown age of diagnosis of the (second) invasive breast tumour (n=2) were excluded.
†Category boundaries of the PRS_{313} were −3.93, −1.27, −0.88, −0.26, 0.23, 0.84, 1.34 and 3.41.
PRS, Polygenic Risk Score.

from these families in clinical genetic services. Using a validated, comprehensive risk prediction model, BOADICEA,[17 40] pedigree-based family history can be easily combined with the individual PRS_{313}, as well as with gene panel results, to calculate personal BC lifetime risk. We have shown that this procedure leads to a different risk category and corresponding clinical advice for substantial numbers of both non-carriers and carriers of a PV in a moderate BC risk gene. Furthermore, our results confirm the association between risk of BC and the PRS_{313} in familial BC cases in the Dutch population.[5 41]

For *ATM* and *CHEK2* PV carriers, previous studies showed that including the PRS is of additive value for risk prediction and risk management.[13 14 42] A population-based study using a PRS of 105 variants[13] and a case–control study using a PRS of 86 variants[14] found similar results for *CHEK2* PV carriers and showed that there is no need for intensified breast screening for about 30% of the women. Dissimilar percentages were found for *ATM* carriers; about 50% based on the PRS_{105} but a substantially lower percentage using the PRS_{86} would not need intensified screening after including the PRS.[13 14] These results were based on the NCCN guideline, with a single cut-off of 20% guiding clinical management. Compared with these results and using the same guideline, we found a slightly higher percentage of *CHEK2* carriers in the unaffected population would have received different screening advice (39%), but a much lower percentage (7%) for cases with a positive family history. Although we did not see a shift in screening category for *PALB2* carriers, there was an absolute risk difference, with a maximum of 9.8% for cases and 4.8% for population controls, corresponding to a lifetime risk range of 47%–91% for cases and 48%–56% for controls. A previous study found a similar effect for cases by including the PRS.[43] Such differences in risk could inform choices regarding preventive surgeries. It is to be expected that we will have a more extensive PRS for BC in the future, knowing that the PRS_{313} explains about half of the estimated part of the familial relative risk that could be explained by common low-risk variants[4 5] and that recent studies already discovered 38 novel BC susceptibility loci at genome-wide significance level.[44 45] Using a more extensive PRS in the future possibly gives an even better risk stratification and may lead to a higher percentage of women shifting to another risk category.

Our study did not have enough power to perform an association analysis between the PRS and BC for PV carriers in *PALB2*, *CHEK2* or *ATM*. However, previous studies showed that the per-SD effect size of a PRS with BC in PV carriers of moderate BC genes, such as *CHEK2*, is similar as in non-carriers or untested individuals,[13 46] but lower in carriers of PV in *BRCA1/2*.[12] Few studies have been performed on *ATM* or *PALB2* carriers, but a recent study showed that the effect sizes of the associations were in between those for *BRCA1/2* and *CHEK2*.[14] However, BOADICEA assumes that the effect of the PRS is similar for non-PV carriers and carriers of a PV in the genes *PALB2*, *ATM* and *CHEK2*, that is, PVs and the PRS contribute to risk independently. This may need some adjustment once the exact per-SD effect sizes and interactions are known for these specific genes.

We found a higher effect size for the association between BC and the PRS_{313} (OR=1.97, 95% CI 1.84 to 2.11) than found in the population-based cohorts of BCAC (OR=1.61, 95% CI 1.57 to 1.65)[5] or the Dutch population (HR=1.56, 95% CI 1.40 to 1.73).[41] This can possibly be explained by a higher genetic predisposition in families that visit the clinical genetic centre for counselling. Although we adjusted for family history, the weak correlation between the PRS and family history showed that adjustment for family history does not suffice to correct for the higher genetic predisposition based on the common low-risk variants. Furthermore, family history ($BOADICEA_{FH}$) of the controls was imputed based on the assumption that the family history in controls was normally distributed with mean=0. This might have introduced bias since the real family history of each control is unknown.

The virtually absent correlation between family history and the PRS_{313} was found in previous studies as well,[7 10 19] underscoring the additive value of including the PRS in family-based risk prediction. However, to avoid double-counting this requires careful joint consideration of family history and an explicitly measured PRS as provided by the BOADICEA algorithm. Altogether, risk stratification using the PRS in addition to family-based risk prediction in non-carriers and PV carriers highlights the need for using a comprehensive model including the PRS to calculate individual BC lifetime risks to guide screening and prevention advice. Of note, there is also no evidence that the per-SD PRS_{313} OR differs across strata defined by lifestyle and hormonal risk factors.[47]

The strengths of this study include the detailed family history that was available for the cases. As we used only cases who visited clinical genetic centres for counselling, this cohort is a good representation of the families that are seen in a clinical genetic context. Furthermore, our results are based on a well-validated, comprehensive risk prediction model, BOADICEA, which has been shown to have accurate risk predictions for the general population and in familial setting.[40 41]

A limitation of this study is that we had only data for women of European ancestry, even though some studies have shown that (a subset of) the PRS_{313} is associated with BC in other ancestries as well.[48 49] For Asian[48] and Latina[49] populations, the PRS showed similar performance as in the European population, but for the African population[50] there was an attenuated effect size. Therefore, caution is needed for comprehensive risk prediction including the PRS for women of African ancestry.

In summary, including the PRS_{313} in family history-based risk prediction may change screening recommendations in up to 34% of individuals from families with no PVs in any of the

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five BC genes modelled in BOADICEA. Adding the PRS_{313} also had a large impact on screening recommendations for *ATM* and *CHEK2* PV carriers. Because BOADICEA has been prospectively validated and calibrated,[40 41] clinical implementation of comprehensive risk prediction should be considered, although this will be a logistic challenge for clinical genetic centres and would require clinical geneticists to become aware of its limitations.

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Competing interests AL is listed as an inventor of BOADICEA V.5, which is commercialised through Cambridge Enterprise, part of Cambridge University.

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Data availability statement Data are available upon reasonable request. The gene sequencing and SNP array genotyping results, and digitalised family histories of this study are part of the BCAC database. Access to the BCAC data is governed by a data access coordinating committee. If you are interested in gaining access to the BCAC data, please contact the BCAC coordinator by email (BCAC@medschl.cam.ac.uk). Summary results from the iCOGS and OncoArray projects are now publicly available and can be accessed via the links on the BCAC website (https://bcac.ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/bcacdata/).

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