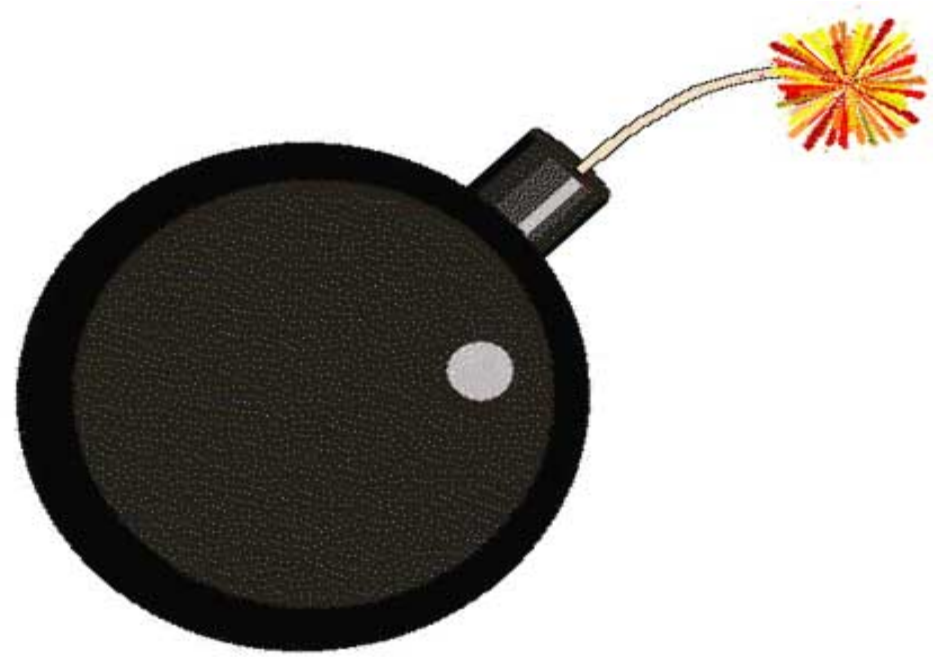


High risk women: the psychological impact

Natacha Espié
Psychologue clinicienne
Saint-Louis réseau sein

Risk
Breast
Cancer



Objective
Truth

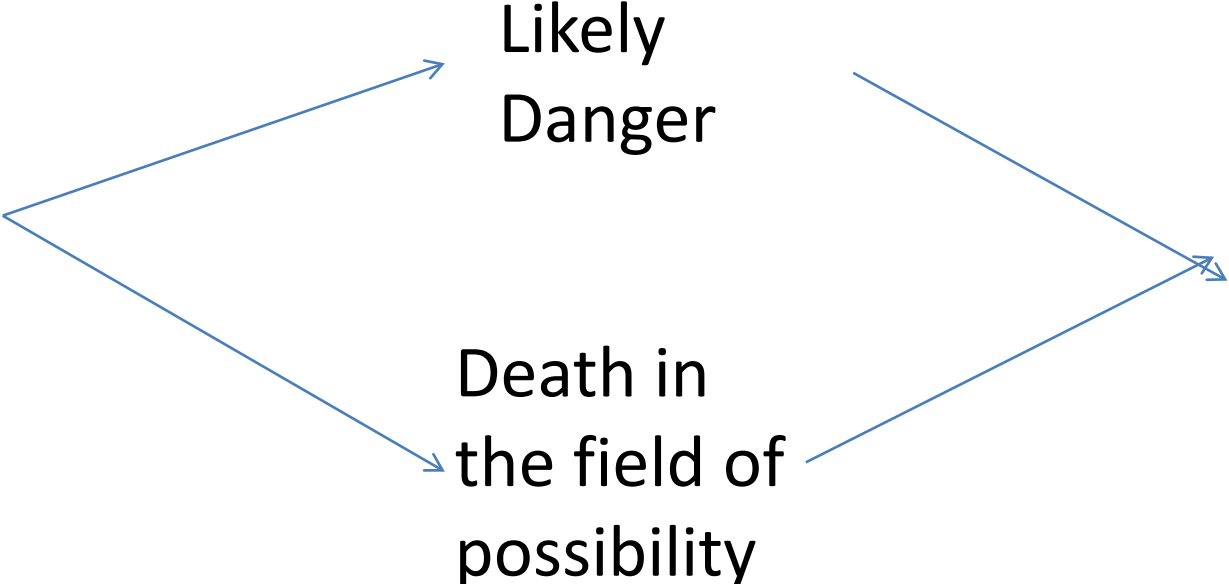


Subjective
Truth

Transmission:

- Genes
- Of the disease
- Of cancer

Risk



Likely
Danger

Death in
the field of
possibility

Cancer

- The idea of our own death beyond our capacity for representation





- High risk women →
Symbolic castration
→ Loss and mourning
of an eternal life

- Genetic risk
 - Renouncing a care free life
 - Throes of uncertainty
- Psychic impulses ever at work in oncology

The days «before »
Care free days



The days « after » days
Of worry and anxiety





DANGER

POLICE IN AREA

October 22—
Join with people across the country
in the National Day of Protest to STOP
Police Brutality, Repression, and the
Criminalization of a Generation

For the Call for Oct. 22, 2007 and info on protest locations:
october22.org 1-866-NOBRUTALITY info@october22.org

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Uncertainty harder to bear than danger

- Role of the psyche:
 - Thwarting a prophecy
 - Giving rise to a hope, devising a life plan



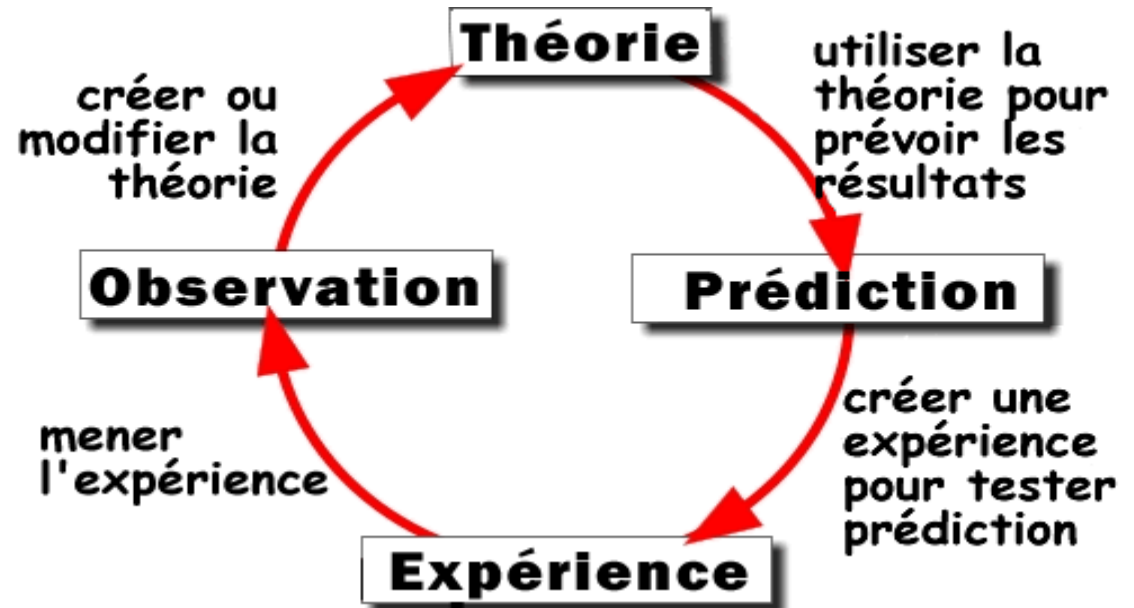
- To some women, notion of risk = psychic working
 - Assimilating the piece of information
 - Putting it into their personal history

To be at risk = To be doomed



Fear of collapsing

Encounter between fantasy and science



Various forms of uncertainty

Anxiety
Fit of depression
Mental confusion



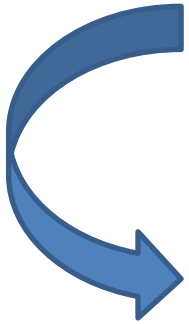


Anxiety is a feeling of an impending, inescapable danger

- Normal ≠ Pathological
- The answer of psychoanalysis is on the side of quantity, degree, excess

- To be at risk
- → reactions vary from one person to another
- → various reactions in the same person

To live with a genetic risk is something very complicated



Not a clearly defined status

What can be done with that knowledge?



Surveillance

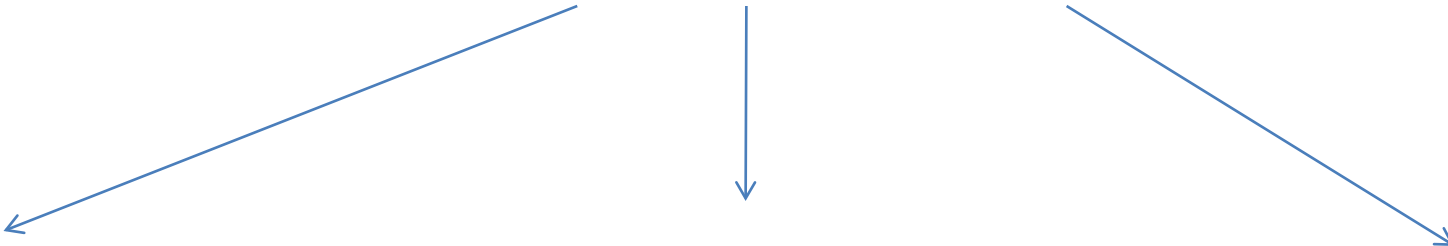
- Time to watch
- Patients watch themselves
- Patients watch physicians

Surgery

- Prophylactic mastectomy
- Prophylactic ovariectomy



Genetic risk



Woman's
physical
integrity

Interfamily
relationship

Filiation
Descendants

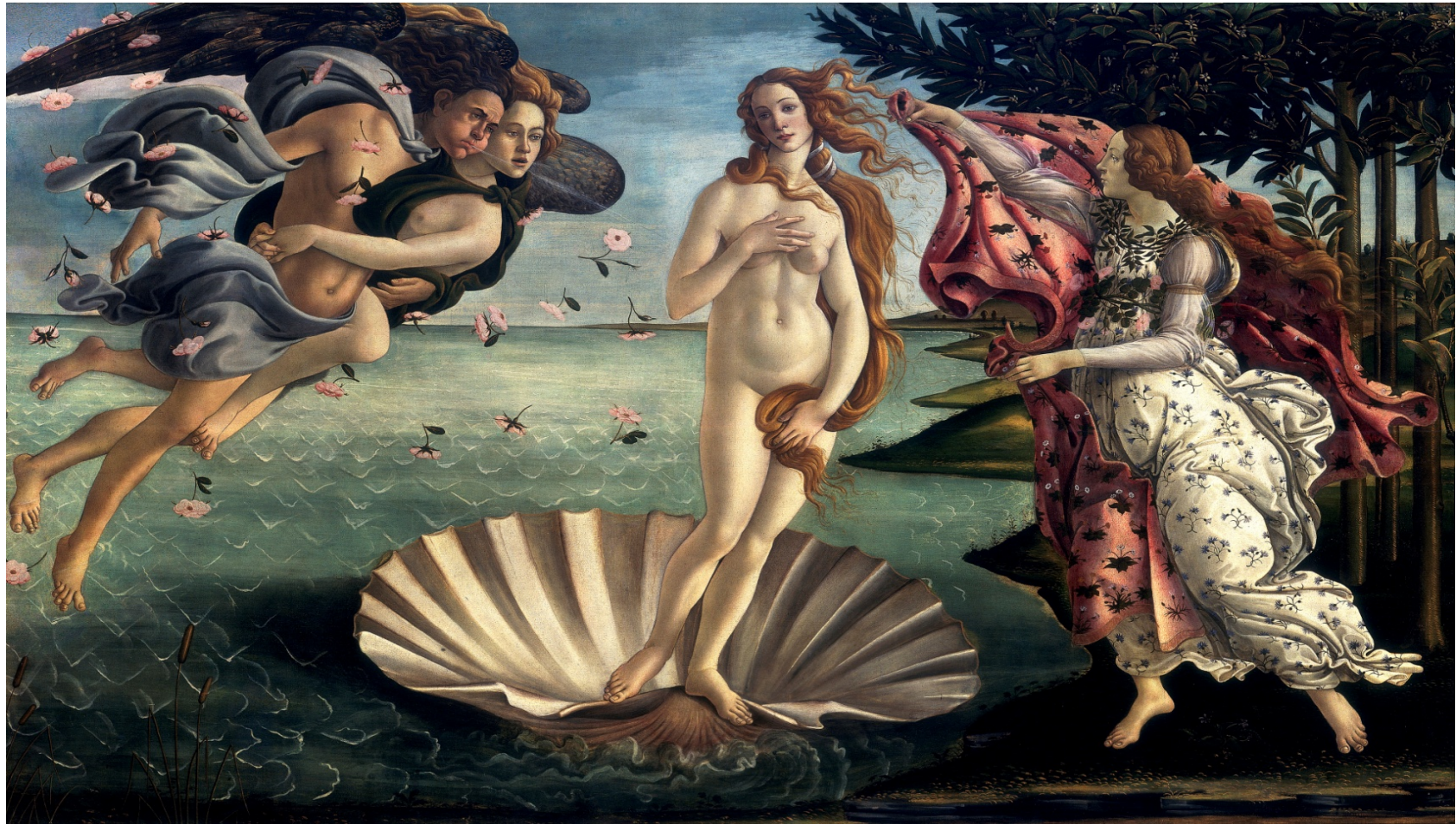
- Family tree= Back to the family history
- Makes what was hidden resurface
- Secrets, wrongdoing, guilt



Reconstitution de l'histoire

- To find one's place in relation to one's line of descent
- To mobilize emotional bonds
- Heredity
- Filiation
- Death, sexuality
- Transmission of life
- Identity, guilt

Some women feel themselves freer an it is their belief that it's time for them to live



I THANK YOU VERY MUCH