

# Heat Camera Spots Day-Trippers' Breast cancer

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**The image that raised the alarm.** Bal Gill, a mother of two, says her visit to an Edinburgh tourist attraction saved her life. A mother discovered she had cancer when she saw heat radiating from her left breast on a thermal camera at a tourist attraction. Bal Gill, 41, said her visit to the Camera Obscura and World of Illusions with her husband and two children in May saved her life after she noticed a “weird” red patch on the screen. She took a photograph on her phone and looked it up online when she returned home to Slough, Berkshire.

Mrs Gill found that oncologists sometimes use thermal imaging cameras to diagnose cancer and immediately booked a doctor’s appointment.

She was diagnosed with high-grade ductal carcinoma in situ, an early form of breast cancer which has the potential to develop into an invasive, life-threatening condition.

Mrs Gill, a deputy finance director of a university, has had two rounds of surgery — including a mastectomy — and is now waiting for a third operation to try to stop the disease spreading. Doctors expect a favourable outcome. She has written to the team at the attraction to thank them.

Mrs Gill had been visiting Edinburgh Castle with her children, aged 11 and 15, when they decided to visit the interactive exhibition nearby. She said: “The kids were dancing around and we had a laugh at the heat radiating from my husband’s bald head.

“But then I looked at myself and saw a heat patch just towards my left breast. Nobody else had this heat patch. “I thought that was really weird and just odd. Just before we left the museum, I even popped back in to check again.”

“I’d had a mammogram earlier this year, but because I’ve got dense breast tissue nothing was picked up at all. So, had I not visited the museum and used the thermal camera, I wouldn’t have taken this seriously.”

Mrs Gill said that including thermal imaging as a routine part of the cancer screening, which is not standard procedure in the UK, could help other women to receive early diagnosis. Andrew Johnson, general manager of the attraction, said: “We did not realise that our thermal camera had the potential to detect life-changing symptoms in this way.”

One in seven women in the UK will be affected by breast cancer in their lifetime and about 55,000 women receive the diagnosis every year.