

1 Screening mammograms save lives

Screening mammography prevents deaths from breast cancer through early detection. This is supported by clear evidence from studies showing fewer breast cancer deaths in women who had screening mammograms compared to those who did not.

2 Regular screenings make a difference

The most breast cancer deaths are prevented and lives saved when screening mammography is performed annually beginning at age 40.

3 Early detection reduces severity of treatment

Early detection with mammography not only saves lives but also reduces the severity of treatment that women with breast cancer must undergo. Studies have demonstrated that women whose breast cancers are found with screening mammography are less likely to have more intensive treatment such as mastectomy or chemotherapy.

4 Results aren't always right

The primary limitations of screening mammography are that it will not find all cancers and may require some additional testing for non-cancers. Physicians and scientists continue to work to improve breast cancer screening methods. One example is digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT), a new 3-D technique for performing screening mammography that is now available. DBT is a more accurate mammogram which directly addresses the limitations of standard mammography.

