

Summary and Conclusions

- Early detection of breast cancer has a 90 to 98 percent long term survival rate.
- Mammography can be simply described as a specialized radiographic examination of the male or female breast to detect cancer. The American Medical Association (AMA),
- American College of Radiology, and the American Cancer Society all recommend annual screening mammography for all women beginning at age 40.
- The primary reason for recommending a screening mammogram is that mammography can show changes up to two years before even an experienced physician can feel them. Furthermore, it is in this “early time” period that breast cancers are most curable.
- Of those women who will develop invasive breast cancer, statistically 78% will be over age 50 at diagnosis, whereas 17% will be in their forties. Therefore, aging is the second greatest risk factor.
- mammography has a sensitivity of 60-90% and specificity of 10-40%.
- Combined mammography and ultrasound is about 99% accurate.
- Breast biopsy has lead to a significant increase in detection and diagnosis of small and impalpable breast lesions.
- Breast MRI has a sensitivity of 95-100% and specificity of 80-95% for all invasive carcinomas.
- MRI can differentiate some stages of DCIS demonstrating some 50-90% of cases.