



Primary Screening for Breast Cancer With Conventional Mammography: Clinical Summary

Population	Women aged 40 to 49 y	Women aged 50 to 74 y	Women aged ≥75 y
Recommendation	The decision to start screening should be an individual one. Grade: C	Screen every 2 years. Grade: B	No recommendation. Grade: I statement (insufficient evidence)

Risk Assessment	These recommendations apply to asymptomatic women aged ≥40 y who do not have preexisting breast cancer or a previously diagnosed high-risk breast lesion and who are not at high risk for breast cancer because of a known underlying genetic mutation (such as a <i>BRCA1</i> or <i>BRCA2</i> gene mutation or other familial breast cancer syndrome) or a history of chest radiation at a young age. Increasing age is the most important risk factor for most women.		
Screening Tests	Conventional digital mammography has essentially replaced film mammography as the primary method for breast cancer screening in the United States. Conventional digital screening mammography has about the same diagnostic accuracy as film overall, although digital screening seems to have comparatively higher sensitivity but the same or lower specificity in women age <50 y.		
Starting and Stopping Ages	For women who are at average risk for breast cancer, most of the benefit of mammography results from biennial screening during ages 50 to 74 y. While screening mammography in women aged 40 to 49 y may reduce the risk for breast cancer death, the number of deaths averted is smaller than that in older women and the number of false-positive results and unnecessary biopsies is larger. The balance of benefits and harms is likely to improve as women move from their early to late 40s.		
Screening Interval	For most women, biennial mammography screening provides the best overall balance of benefit and harms.		
Balance of Benefits and Harms	The net benefit of screening mammography in women aged 40 to 49 y, while positive, is small.	The net benefit of screening mammography in women aged 50 to 74 y is moderate.	Evidence on mammography screening in women aged ≥75 y is insufficient, and the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined.
Other Relevant USPSTF Recommendations	The USPSTF has made recommendations about the use of medications to reduce women’s risk for breast cancer, as well as risk assessment, genetic counseling, and genetic testing for <i>BRCA1</i> - or <i>BRCA2</i> -related cancer (including breast cancer). These recommendations are available on the USPSTF Web site (www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org).		

Screening for Breast Cancer With Methods Other Than Conventional Mammography: Clinical Summary

Screening Method	Primary screening with DBT	Adjunctive screening with breast ultrasonography, MRI, DBT, or other methods in women who have dense breasts
Recommendation	No recommendation. Grade: I statement (insufficient evidence)	No recommendation. Grade: I statement (insufficient evidence)

Benefits	From the limited data available, DBT seems to reduce recall rates (i.e., follow-up for additional imaging or testing) and increase cancer detection rates compared with conventional digital mammography alone.	Limited data suggests that ultrasonography or MRI will detect additional breast cancer in women who have dense breasts. DBT also detects additional breast cancer in the short term.
Harms	As currently practiced in most settings, DBT exposes women to about twice the amount of radiation as conventional digital mammography. Current study designs cannot determine the degree to which the additional cases of cancer detected would have become clinically significant (i.e., the degree of overdiagnosis).	Most positive adjunctive breast cancer screening test results are false positive.
Balance of Benefits and Harms	Evidence is insufficient, and the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined.	Evidence is insufficient, and the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined.

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making this recommendation, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents, please go to www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org.