

# Switch to digital mammography leads to increased cancer detection rates

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The use of digital mammography equipment alone is responsible for an increased number of breast cancers detected at a community-based mammography facility, according to a study performed at San Luis Diagnostic Center in San Luis Obispo, CA.

Researchers found that there was a significant increase in the number of [breast](#) cancers detected following the switch from film-screen to digital mammography. The number of cancers detected prior to the switch averaged between 4.1-4.5 cancers per 1,000 women imaged. Following the switch, the cancer detection rate increased to 7.9 cancers per 1,000 women imaged and has remained high. [Breast cancer](#) detection rates were evaluated using an auditing system.

"Surprisingly, sixty to seventy percent of screening facilities in the United States are still using film-screen mammography. This is a disadvantage because digital mammography offers considerable advantages over film-screen mammography," he said.

"I would certainly encourage patients who are being screened to look for facilities that have digital technology because it is faster and has a higher [cancer detection](#) rate. There is a need for more studies like ours to confirm our findings," said Dr. Vernacchia.

Source: American Roentgen Ray Society

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