

# Breast symptoms at mammogram may raise future cancer risk

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(HealthDay)—Women with breast symptoms at a regular cancer

screening are more likely to develop breast cancer before their next screening, a new study finds.

The study included women who took part in the Finnish National Breast Cancer Screening Program between 1992 and 2012. It invites women between ages 50 and 69 for mammograms every two years.

Those women who reported [breast](#) symptoms such as lumps, nipple retraction or nipple discharge at their regular screening visit were more likely to be recalled than those without symptoms—15 percent vs. 3 percent.

Compared to women with no symptoms, those with a lump had more than triple the risk for a [breast cancer](#) diagnosis before their next scheduled screening. Those with nipple discharge had twice the odds, and those with nipple retraction were 1.5 times more likely to get a cancer diagnosis, the study found.

The study was scheduled for presentation Wednesday at the European Breast Cancer Conference, in Barcelona, Spain. Research presented at medical meetings is usually viewed as preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The findings indicate that "women with breast symptoms should undergo further assessment irrespective of mammography findings," study author Deependra Singh said in a conference news release. Singh is a researcher at the Finnish Cancer Registry in Helsinki.

He noted that because mammography can miss up to 40 percent of [breast tumors](#), women with symptoms, especially a lump, should be examined more often.

"There is room for improvement in the capability of mammography to

detect [cancer](#) and our research shows this is particularly the case for [women](#) who have breast symptoms," Singh said.

"Our findings can be extrapolated to other countries that have national mammography screening programs, and we encourage these programs to collect and analyze information on symptoms," he said.

**More information:** The U.S. National Cancer Institute has more on [breast cancer screening](#).

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