

# Mammography screening also confers benefits on participants with interval cancer

August 31 2018

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Mammograms showing a normal breast (left) and a breast with cancer (right).  
Credit: Public Domain

Participants in the German mammography screening program (MSP) who have invasive breast cancer—including interval cancers—can, on the whole, undergo more sparing surgical treatment compared with non-participants. This is demonstrated by a study in the current issue of the *Deutsches Ärzteblatt International*. The tumor characteristics and prognostic markers of breast cancers detected in MSP participants at

screening, in the interval following negative screening, as well as in non-participants were compared.

Data on 1531 newly diagnosed cases of invasive and in situ breast [cancer](#) (DCIS, ductal carcinoma in situ) were evaluated in two certified breast care centers in Münster, Germany. Comprehensive information on [tumor characteristics](#), tumor biology, and primary surgical treatment was available for all cases.

In their retrospective observational study, Bettina Braun and co-authors conclude that [breast cancer](#) was still at an early stage (DCIS) more frequently in screening participants compared with non-participants (23 percent versus 31 percent). Invasive cancers were smaller in participants (74 percent versus 55 percent in the T1 stage), could be operated on more frequently in a breast-conserving manner (75 percent versus 62 percent), and a guideline-based indication for adjuvant chemotherapy was less common in these patients (46 percent versus 52 percent). The authors emphasize that one can assume comparable figures in other screening regions.

**More information:** Bettina Braun et al. Differences in breast cancer characteristics by mammography screening participation or non-participation, *Deutsches Aerzteblatt Online* (2018). [DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2018.0520](#)

Provided by Deutsches Aerzteblatt International

Citation: Mammography screening also confers benefits on participants with interval cancer (2018, August 31) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-08-mammography-screening-confers-benefits-interval.html>

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