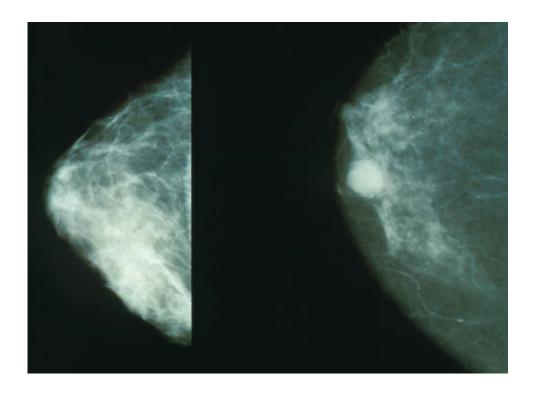


Mammography screening also confers benefits on participants with interval cancer

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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 <u>cancer</u> (DCIS, ductal carcinoma in situ) were evaluated in two certified breast care centers in Münster, Germany. Comprehensive information on <u>tumor characteristics</u>, tumor biology, and primary surgical treatment was available for all cases.

In their retrospective observational study, Bettina Braun and co-authors conclude that <u>breast cancer</u> 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

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