Mammography screening also confers benefits on participants with interval cancer

August 31 2018

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 January 2024 from
interval.html