Canadian Radiologists Do Not Support Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC) Screening Mammography Guidelines

Canadian radiologists’ perspectives regarding screening mammography for others and for themselves

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Purpose:
To determine screening mammography recommendations that radiologists in Canada promote to average risk patients and family/friends, and do or would do for themselves.

Methods:
REB-exempt survey was delivered online in English and French. Radiologists were recruited by email from provincial radiology organizations. Data included recommendations for mammography and personal screening habits. The 3 study cohorts were women ≥40 years of age (group1); women < 40 years (group2); and men (group3).

Results:
400 surveys were collected from 9 provinces. 2.2% (7/315) recommended mammography for patients q2-3 years for women 50-74 years of age; 32.0% (101/315) biennial mammography for women 50-74 years and 63.2% (199/315) q1-2 years for women ≥40 years of age. Recommendations were similar for family and friends: 1.7% (5/303) q2-3 years, 30.7% (93/303) biennial screening for 50-74 years old, and 63% (191/305) q1-2 years for women ≥40 years. In group1, 82% (37/45) underwent screening q1-2 years. In group2, 47% (18/38) will undergo screening ≥40 years while in group3, 98% (164/168) would undergo screening q1-2 years, 77% (130/168) ≥40 years.

Conclusion:
The majority of Canadian radiologists recommend mammography every 1-2 years for average risk women aged ≥40 years, whether they are patients or family and friends. The fact that Canadian radiologists do not follow CTFPHC guidelines should be cause for concern.