

Screening Dense Breasts - Overview of Guidelines & Current Practices

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Mammography remains the gold standard imaging modality for the early detection of breast cancer. However, the sensitivity of mammography is reduced due to the masking effect of dense breast tissue in which non-calcified isodense carcinomas may be hidden, leading to an increase in the interval cancer rates. Additionally, breast density has been recognized as an independent risk factor in the development of breast cancer and it has been incorporated into several risk assessment models, playing an important role in shaping screening strategies. Current options and performance of supplemental screening modalities that include hand-held breast ultrasound, automated breast ultrasound, abbreviated or full protocol contrast-enhanced MRI, molecular breast imaging and contrast enhanced spectral mammography will be discussed. Further, the current guidelines and approaches across various societies for supplemental screening in women with dense breasts as well as the collaborative efforts of medically sourced online site DenseBreast-info.org that provides breast density educational information for women and healthcare professionals will be presented.

References:

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4. Berg WA, Rafferty EA., Friedewald SM., et al. (2020) Screening Algorithms in Dense Breasts: AJR Expert Panel Narrative Review. AJR September 9, doi:10.2214/ AJR.20.24436.

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