Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care

Breast Cancer Screening 2011

Should you be screened with mammography for breast cancer?

Are you high risk?
High risk refers to women who have a personal or family history of breast cancer, the known BRCA1 or 2 mutation, or prior chest wall radiation.

No

How old are you?

Be informed! Talk to your health care provider.

40-49
We suggest not screening with mammography.

Why?
The chance of having a false positive is relatively high, but the likelihood of having breast cancer is lower than at older ages.

50-74
We suggest scheduling a mammogram every 2-3 years.

Why?
The chance of getting breast cancer increases. The benefits of screening begin to outweigh the potential harms.

75+
We suggest discussing the benefits and harms of mammography with a health care provider.

Why?
The benefits of screening may outweigh the potential harms. Your overall health is important in deciding whether to have a mammogram.

Talk to a doctor about the best screening options for you.
This guideline does not apply to women with a high risk of breast cancer.

What to do

Yes

We suggest not screening with mammography.

We suggest scheduling a mammogram every 2-3 years.

We suggest discussing the benefits and harms of mammography with a health care provider.

40-49

50-74

75+

Be informed! Talk to your health care provider.