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Funded through the Connecticut Cancer Partnership and the CT Department of Public Health
Leadership of Lyndsay Harris, M.D. Yale

Who we are:

State-wide breast cancer specialists, providers, and advocates dedicated to:

- Developing task forces to examine national standards for breast cancer care and guidelines for CT breast cancer practitioners
- Increasing access to clinical trials
- Reducing health disparities

As part of our assessment of Best Breast Cancer Practices for CT, I come as the voice of the BCCC to discuss two components of Public Act No. 09-41

1. Appropriate age to begin screening mammography.
2. Breast density- how it is reported and further worked up in the screening setting.

BCCC concerns with issue 1 as stated in the Act:
Age at which to begin screening mammography

As stated in the Act:

- ▶ baseline mammogram ages 35-39
- ▶ yearly from age 40

Recent publication by The U.S. Preventive Task Force questions these guidelines

- new guideline recommends against screening routinely in women ages 40-49

Truth or Fiction

Three steps are required to prove that a screening test for breast cancer is efficacious.

1. Cancer is found at a smaller size and earlier stage than is possible without test .
2. Prospective randomized controlled clinical trials demonstrate a statistically significant reduction in mortality.
3. After screening test introduced, death rate from breast cancer declined.

December 4, 2009 ,Diagnostic Imaging. Vol. 31 No. 12
 Kopans, Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School, Senior Radiologist, Breast Imaging Division at MGH

BCCC concerns with issue 2 as stated in the Act: Breast Density

As stated in the Act:

- ▶ Each mammography report provided to a patient shall include information about breast density.
- ▶ Additional medical coverage is PROVIDED for comprehensive **ultrasound screening** of an entire breast or breasts if mammogram demonstrates dense breast tissue.
- ▶ Such report shall include the following notice: "If your mammogram demonstrates that you have **dense breast** tissue, which could hide small abnormalities, you might benefit from supplementary screening tests, which can include a breast ultrasound screening or a breast MRI examination, or both. **Contact your physician** if you have questions about this report.

BCCC Recommendations

Instead of inconsistent and divergent screening referrals, we propose a state-wide clinical trial.

- comparison of US screening throughout CT
- available to all women with dense breasts
- data collected on detection and cancer stage
