

Breast Density May Play Key Role in Tumor Aggressiveness

According to research published in the journal *Breast Cancer Research*, mammographic density is positively associated with the risk of invasive tumors across all ages. Clinical research has been previously inconsistent. Researchers pooled data from six studies that included a total of 3,414 women with breast cancer and 7,199 without the disease who underwent screening mammography. They calculated breast cancer odds according to tumor type, histopathological characteristics, and receptor status by age. Women with high density scores had more than a 51 percent risk, compared with those with average density scores, who had an 11 percent to 25 percent risk. Women with 0 percent to 10 percent mammographic density had half the risk of breast cancer, compared with women with 11 percent to 25 percent density. Women younger than 55 with high mammographic density had a higher risk of ductal carcinoma in situ than women age 55 and older. For younger women, there was a stronger link between mammographic density and ER-negative than ER-positive tumors. Mammographic density was positively associated with both HER2-negative and HER2-positive tumors within each age group.