

## **Digital Mammography May Deliver Less Radiation Than Conventional Mammography.**

HealthDay (1/21, Preidt) reported, "Digital mammography delivers significantly less radiation than conventional mammography, and the reduction in radiation exposure may be greater for women with larger and denser breasts," according to findings appearing in the American Journal of Roentgenology. In a study of 5,102 women, researchers found that "the average breast radiation dose per view was 22 percent lower for digital than film mammography." In a news release from the American College of Radiology/American Roentgen Ray Society, study author R. Edward Hendrick noted that radiation "dose reduction is an added benefit of digital mammography over and above its ability to better detect cancers in women with dense breasts."

Reuters (1/22, Steenhuysen) reports that Dr. Carol Lee, chairwoman of the American College of Radiology Breast Imaging Commission, "said digital mammography offers the same kinds of advantages that digital photographs have over pictures taken with older film technology."

But, the study also showed that "digital imaging is likely to require more than four normal views in about 20 percent of women screened," MedPage Today (1/21, Peck) reported. In fact, "only 12 percent of women screened with traditional mammography required more than four normal views compared with 21 percent of women imaged with digital systems." The researchers calculated that "the difference in radiation exposure between the two modalities dropped to 17 percent" after taking into account "the need for additional views." Health Imaging (1/21) also covered the story.