SAM Questions, Rationales and References

1. What is the risk of breast cancer for women with extremely dense breast tissue compared to women with fatty breasts?
   A. 8 times more likely
   B. 4 times more likely
   C. 2 times more likely
   D. Not increased

Correct answer: B
Rationale: Women with extremely dense breasts are about 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer than women with fatty replaced breasts.

Reference:


2. Which of the following examinations results in the highest increase in breast cancer detection for women with extremely dense breast tissue?
   A. Digital mammography
   B. Tomosynthesis
   C. Screening ultrasound
   D. Clinical breast examination

Correct answer: C
Rationale: Screening ultrasound detects 30% more cancers than mammography alone. Tomosynthesis results in increased cancer detection, but the effect is much lower for women in the extremely dense category.

Reference:

3. A low density breast that has an area of glandular tissue sufficiently dense to obscure small masses should be classified as:
   A. Fatty
   B. Scattered fibroglandular densities
   C. Heterogeneously dense
   D. Extremely dense

   Correct answer: C

   Rationale: The fifth edition BI-RADS lexicon specifies that lower density mammograms should be upgraded to the heterogeneous category if there is tissue that is “…sufficiently dense to obscure small masses.”

   Reference:

4. In which density categories do women benefit the greatest in sensitivity and specificity from tomosynthesis?
   A. Fatty and scattered fibroglandular densities
   B. Scattered and heterogeneously dense
   C. Heterogeneously and extremely dense

   Correct answer: B

   Rationale: Women in the scattered and heterogeneously dense categories have the most improvement in cancer detection and specificity.

   Reference:

5. Regarding breast density notification laws:
   A. About 25% of the states have one
   B. All require that the woman be informed if she has dense breasts
   C. All require information about breast density
   D. Required information varies widely from state-to-state

   Correct answer: D

   Rationale: More than half of the states now have some type of breast density notification law. What is mandated to be communicated by the law varies widely from state-to-state with some only providing information about density to all women while others specify informing women with dense breasts plus/minus information about supplemental screening. (7)

   Reference:
References


