



New ACR/SBI Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines Call for Significant Changes to Screening Process *Assign Special Status and Approach for African-American and Other Women at High-Risk for Breast Cancer*

Reston, VA (April 4, 2018) -- New American College of Radiology (ACR) and Society of Breast Imaging (SBI) [breast cancer screening guidelines](#) are the first to recognize that African-American women are at high-risk for the disease and should be screened as such. The ACR and SBI now call for all women to have a risk assessment at age 30 to see if screening earlier than age 40 is needed. The societies also newly-recommend that women previously diagnosed with breast cancer be screened with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

The ACR and SBI continue to recommend that women at average breast cancer risk begin screening at age 40.

“The latest scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports a continued general recommendation of starting annual screening at age 40. It also supports augmented and earlier screening for many women. These updates will help save more lives,” said Debra Monticciolo, MD, FACR, chair of the American College of Radiology Breast Imaging Commission.

According to 2015 National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) data, since mammography became widespread in the 1980s, the U.S. breast cancer death rate in women, unchanged for the previous 50 years, has dropped 43 percent. Breast cancer deaths in men, who have the same treatment as women but are not screened, have not declined.

Factors that contributed to the ACR/SBI reclassification of [African-American women](#) include that:

- African-American women are 42 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than non-Hispanic white women despite roughly equal incidence rates
- African-American women have a two-fold higher risk of aggressive — “triple-negative” — breast tumors
- African-American women are less likely to be diagnosed with stage I breast cancer, but twice as likely to die of early breast cancers
- African-American women have a higher risk of BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic mutations than those of Western European ancestry. These carriers are at much higher risk for breast cancer.

“Since 1990, breast cancer death rates dropped 23 percent in African-American women — approximately half that in whites. We changed our approach to help save more African-American women and others at higher risk from this deadly disease,” said Wendy B. DeMartini, MD, FSBI.

For more information regarding the proven effectiveness of regular mammography screening at reducing breast cancer deaths, please visit [RadiologyInfo.org](#), [MammographySavesLives.org](#) and [EndTheConfusion.org](#).

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