Mammography utilization in women aged 40-49 years: the French EDIFICE survey.

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Abstract
In France, mammography screening is offered to women aged between 50 and 74 years. EDIFICE, the iterative nationwide survey, collected data on a national level about consumers utilization of available cancer screening procedures. This analysis compared data from a subset of 241 women aged between 40 and 50 years with that of 488 women aged between 50 and 74 years. Multivariate analysis showed the following significant factors to be linked with screening attendance for women younger than 50 years: age, with a threshold value at 44 years; awareness of the recommended screening period (2 years); consultation within the last 12 months with a general practitioner or a gynaecologist; and long standing local programme for colon cancer screening. Notwithstanding the debate on risk/benefit of breast cancer screening for women in their 40s, we observed more differences with regard to attendance between women aged 40-45 years versus that of 46-74 years than between women aged 40-49 years versus that of 50-74 years. The issue that is unanswered as yet is, do women make a kind of heuristic for starting breast cancer screening, leading them to a threshold choice of 45 years or alternatively to a collective answer of standard age minus 5 years!

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