Mammography screening as a method for the early detection of breast cancer
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Authors' objectives
This report aims to answer the following questions:

- To what extent are reductions in the efficacy of a mammography screening programme with a participation rate of under 70% to be tolerated?

- What quality demands are to be considered as having priority?

- What experience is available concerning the application of mammography screening programmes? - Which methods have proved reliable for assuring participation?

- What status do mammography based screening programmes have in other countries?

Authors' conclusions
In 9 international, randomized studies the effect mammography screening has in reducing mortality caused by breast cancer could be proved. Without drawing up theme related assessments of procedures and without corresponding model projects, our estimation as achieved in the decentralised German health system can only continue to be a limited one. Concepts for testing mammography screening in the framework of demonstration projects which explicitly take German conditions into consideration have been developed, and suggestions for solutions have been elaborated. It is to be expected that in connection with the agreement between the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians and the federal health insurance organizations concerning the implementation of model projects, information shall be gained about whether a screening programme covering an extensive area with an adequate cost-benefit ratio can be integrated into the structures of the German health care system. Assessments of procedures, evaluations of programmes and guidelines from foreign institutions can contribute important detailed information when implementing the planned model projects.

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