Digital mammography versus film-screen mammography: technical, clinical and economic assessments

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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
The aim of this report is to compare the technical, clinical and potential costs of digital mammography (DM) and film-screen mammography (FSM) within the context of the Canadian health care system based on a systematic review of published and unpublished studies.

Authors' conclusions
DR-M has significantly higher annualized costs than either FSM or CR-M. Potential clinical benefits (improved diagnostic accuracy, shorter examination time, lower radiation dose) for patients, institutions and payers have not been demonstrated in a clinical setting. The ability to detect cancer is comparable for DR-M and FSM. (There is not sufficient data on clinical effectiveness of CR-M). Assuming that DR-M and CR-M are, at best, clinically equivalent to FSM, the minimum-cost system is preferred; therefore, conventional FSM is preferable to DM at this time.

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