

Table. Age 40 biennial screening

What are chances of benefit and harm from screening mammography (digital tomosynthesis) done every 2 years for 10 years for an American woman age 40? The table presents ranges for each outcome based on the US Preventive Services Task Force and additional published literature.

| | No mammogram | Mammogram every 2 years | Range of possible effects of mammograms every 2 years for 10 years for a woman age 40 |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Benefit | | | |
| Chance of death overall | 1.96% ¹ | 1.96% to 1.91% ² | Between 0 and 0.5 fewer deaths overall per 1000 women screened |
| Chance of breast cancer death | 0.18% ³ | 0.16% to 0.13% ³ | Between 0.2 and 0.5 fewer breast cancer deaths per 1000 women screened |
| Harms | | | |
| Any false alarm | --- | 26.4% to 51.2% ⁴ | Between 264 and 512 false alarms per 1000 women because of screening |
| False alarm requiring a biopsy | --- | 4.3% to 10.0% ⁴ | Between 43 and 100 false alarms requiring a biopsy per 1000 women because of screening |
| Overdiagnosis [diagnosis and treatment of a cancer not destined to cause symptoms or death] | --- | ? to 0.5% ⁵ | Up to 5 overdiagnosed cancer per 1000 women because of screening |

¹ The 10-year chance of death from any cause is derived from [Social Security Administration \(2019 "pre-covid" data\)](#) (see *Appendix - Table calculations*)

² The low end of the range assumes all women avoiding a breast-cancer death do not die from another cause; the high end assumes all women who avoid a breast cancer death die from another cause.

³ Data for the 10-year chance of death from breast cancer are derived from the [National Cancer Institute \(DEVCAN\)](#) (for calculations, see appendix table calculations.xlsx). The lowest chance of death is based on the [US Preventive Services Task Force modeling](#) report which report a 30% relative risk reduction (ages 40-74, biennial, digital tomosynthesis). The highest chance of death is based on the Cochrane [Collaboration meta-analysis](#) estimate for the low risk of bias trials for age <50: 13% relative risk reduction (95% CI, 27% reduction to 3% increase).

⁴ Ho TH, Bissell MCS, Kerlikowske K, et al. Cumulative Probability of False-Positive Results After 10 Years of Screening With Digital Breast Tomosynthesis vs

⁴ Data from Ho, et al. JAMA Netw Open. 2022;5:e222440.

⁵ Data from Pace, et. al. JAMA. 2014;311:1327-1335. The low end is a "?" because Pace did not include a low end estimate.