

Table. Age 50 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 50? The table presents ranges for each outcome based on the US Preventive Services Task Force and additional published literature.

	No mammogram	Mammogram every 2years	Range of possible effects of mammograms every 2 years for 10 years for a woman age 50
Benefit			
Chance of death overall	4.42% ¹	4.42% to 4.32% ²	Between 0 and 1.0 fewer deaths overall per 1000 women screened
Chance of breast cancer death	0.39% ³	0.37% to 0.29% ³	Between 0.2 and 1.0 fewer breast cancer deaths per 1000 women screened
Harms			
Any false alarm	---	18.3% to 42.2% ⁴	Between 183 and 422 false alarms per 1000 women because of screening
False alarm requiring a biopsy	---	4.1% to 10.9% ⁴	Between 41 and 109 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]	---	0.15% to 0.7% ⁵	Between 1.5 and 7 overdiagnosed cancers 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 The 10-year chance of death from breast cancer data are 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 provides the largest estimated benefit from mammography: a 25% relative risk reduction (ages 50-74, biennial, digital tomosynthesis). The highest chance of death is based on the Cochrane [Collaboration meta-analysis](#) for the low risk of bias trials for age ≥50, which provides the smallest estimated benefit: 6 % relative risk reduction (95% CI, 77% reduction to 115% increase).

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

⁵Data from Pace, et. al. JAMA. 2014;311:1327-1335.