

## **OUTCOMES AMONG WOMEN YOUNGER THAN AGE 40 IN A STATE BREAST CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM**

John T. Vetto, M.D. and Katherine J. Schmidt, M.A.

Division of Surgical Oncology, Oregon Health and Sciences University, and the Oregon Breast and Cervical Screening Program, Oregon Department of Human Services

**Background:** The value of entering women younger than age 40 in breast cancer screening programs remains unclear.

**Methods:** Data from the Oregon Breast and Cervical Screening Program for the period 12/31/00-7/1/03 were reviewed with a focus on women 39 years of age or younger. Information on cancers detected in this group was extracted from The Oregon State Cancer Registry.

**Results:** Of the 13,636 women screened, 821 (6%) were younger than 40 (mean age 31.8 yrs.). These women accounted for 4.1 % of the initial mammograms (mean age 36.2 yrs.) but 27% of the ultrasounds (mean age 30.2 yrs.) done in the program. 180 women were asymptomatic (70 had a family history [FHx] of breast cancer), and therefore represented true prevalence screening, while the other 631 women (135 with a positive FHx) were referred to the program for symptoms (incidence screen). A total of 125 biopsies were done-60 core and 65 surgical biopsies. These procedures yielded 5 cancers (4% malignancy rate)-4 invasive and 1 DCIS. All 5 women were symptomatic and had a negative FHx. Age, stage at diagnosis, and race/ethnicity varied among these patients. All were compliant with surgical treatment recommendations.

**Conclusions:** There is as yet no data in our state breast cancer screening program to support screening asymptomatic women younger than 40. The cancer detection rate among symptomatic women is small but real.