



# WOMEN'S HEALTH

## Regular Mammography Screening Saves Lives Medical Experts Stand By Screening Recommendations

(NAPSA)—A regular mammogram is the best way to detect breast cancer, giving a woman options she might not have otherwise had if her cancer was not discovered in its earliest, most curable stages.

That's the long-standing position of the National Cancer Institute, and today, routine mammography screenings are considered part of good and reasonable medical practice. New technology and a greater emphasis on technologist education are helping make this procedure even more reliable, convenient and effective.

The benefits of mammography screening have been clearly shown in randomized, controlled trials in both the United States and Europe. While breast cancer remains the second largest cause of cancer deaths in the United States, the decline in the number of breast cancer deaths since 1989 corresponds directly to an increase in routine mammography screening.

In addition, medical experts now agree that correct patient positioning during the exam plays an extremely important role in the detection of tumors—even more important than image sharpness.

"There are a number of different factors that affect correct positioning, including breast size, mobility of the patient and breast augmentation," says Joanne Scott-Santos, Women's Health Manager of Siemens Medical Solutions, a manufacturer of mammography products. "Each presents a specific challenge to technologists that, if dealt with correctly, can avoid false positive or false negative readings on the mammography film."

The American College of Radiology, along with the American Cancer Society, the Society of Breast Imaging, the American Medical Women's Association and numerous other national women's groups, stand by its recommendation of annual mammography



screenings and yearly clinical breast examinations beginning at age 40.

"Mammographic screening works," said Dr. Stephen Duffy of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in Britain. "It reduces the chances of dying from the disease. It is not the entire answer for controlling breast cancer, but it is an important tool."

Meanwhile, companies such as Siemens Medical Solutions continue to invest significant research and development dollars into the search for new technologies that will improve the detection and treatment of breast cancer. Siemens also offers education and training for technologists in subjects such as patient positioning to improve the success of existing technologies, and the company's sponsorship of several regional Komen Race for the Cure events supports that organization's efforts to raise awareness of breast cancer.

"Siemens understands that as more women are educated about the kinds of diagnostic and treatment options available to them, more will get the screening and healing they need to survive this disease," said Scott-Santos of Siemens.

For more information about the early detection of breast cancer, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit [www.SiemensMedical.com](http://www.SiemensMedical.com) and [www.imaginis.com](http://www.imaginis.com).