

## **EVALUATION OF THE SWISS MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING PROGRAMMES AND COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE OF ORGANISED VS OPPORTUNISTIC SCREENING**

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Swiss health insurance regulation has limited the reimbursement of organised screening mammography to a period of 10 years, ending in December 2007. Continued reimbursement of this screening test within a programme necessitated the most comprehensive analysis of breast cancer screening ever performed in Switzerland.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

To extensively evaluate all Swiss regional screening programmes and to compare prognostic indicators between screened and unscreened women, both within and outside regions covered by a programme.

### **METHODS:**

Performance of regional programmes were assessed according to European Guidelines. Detection and screening modalities (organised vs opportunistic screening, no screening, interval cancers) were obtained by data matching with population-based Swiss cancer registries. Analyses focussed on the 3 oldest programmes (Geneva, Vaud and Wallis) which, although very similar in their organization, had different reading strategies.

### **RESULTS:**

Screening performances met most European standards and a substantial breast cancer stage shifting was observed. Most of the variations in performances across programmes could be ascribed to reading strategies. Opportunistic and organised screening yielded little difference in prognostic profile in regions which offered organised screening. Breast cancer prognostic indicators were systematically more favourable in Swiss regions covered by a programme. In regions without a screening programme, the higher the prevalence of opportunistic screening, the better the prognostic profile.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Mammography screening has influenced the stage distribution of breast cancer in Switzerland, and a favourable impact on mortality is anticipated. Organised screening was as effective as opportunistic screening, a finding that to date only few studies have been able to explore. Extension of organised mammography screening to the whole of Switzerland is warranted.



# Research Day

January 29, 2009  
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de la Faculté de Biologie et de Médecine

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Couverture : Yannick Krempp, Département de Biologie Cellulaire et de Morphologie – UNIL

Photo : DNA microarray image of an RNA expression profiling experiment provided by  
Manuela Weier and Henrik Kaessmann of the Centre Intégré de Génétique - CIG  
and Jérôme Thomas of the Lausanne DNA Array Facility, Centre Intégré de Génétique - CIG



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