

Why have mammograms failed to reduce breast cancer?

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.**

The whole idea behind cancer screening is that doctors will find the disease earlier — even before symptoms appear — and therefore be more likely to successfully treat it and control any spread.

But as the latest issue of the [\*New England Journal of Medicine\*](#), shows, the introduction of mass mammography screening has failed to reduce the rate of advanced-stage breast cancers in women.

This isn't the first time [researchers](#) have questioned the utility of population-wide mammography. [Some medical associations and cancer societies](#) have pushed back the initiation of mass screening, from about 40 years to 45 or 50 years. These general guidelines don't apply to women who have a family history of the disease, or lifestyle factors and genetic markers that put them at a higher risk.

**Read full, original post:** [How mass breast cancer screening failed to diagnose serious cases, in one chart](#)