Canadian National Breast Screening Study – Our Response

On Tuesday, February 11, the British Medical Journal released a new publication from the Canadian National Breast Screening Study. This study has been heavily criticized due to the limitations of the research methodology and findings.

The effectiveness of mammography screening has been well established by several large clinical trials. Research studies show that breast cancer screening can help to reduce mortality by at least 25% in women 40 years of age and older. Fewer Canadian women are dying from breast cancer today than in the past, with breast cancer mortality rates having decreased by 42 per cent since the peak in 1986.

Earlier detection by mammography has helped to reduce breast cancer death rates and improve survival rates. In most cases, the earlier detection of breast cancer leads to more treatment options with less invasive treatment, a better chance of surviving the disease, and improved quality of life. By helping to reduce death and disability from breast cancer, screening plays an important role in women’s health and well-being.

Learn More:

- Mammography screening
- Assessing breast cancer risk
- Other sources