

CADTH Custom Request: Breast Cancer Screening resumption COVID-19

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This customized report is provided to help inform healthcare decision-making and addresses a specific set of questions posed by the original requestor. For permission to distribute this information, or additional questions, please contact CADTH's Implementation Support Team member: Jill Sutherland at jillsu@cadth.ca

Request Question(s):

1. When restarting screening mammography services, is there priority groups that should be targeted? Benefit vs harm of screening mammograms during COVID 19.
2. What are other jurisdictions (Canadian and International) doing with their screening mammography services and resuming service after COVID19 related shutdowns.

Search approach: A targeted literature search was conducted by an Information Specialist in PubMed, as well as a focused Internet search.

Canada

1. Cancer Care Ontario. Pandemic Planning Clinical Guideline for Patients with Cancer. 2020 Mar 10 https://www.accc-cancer.org/docs/documents/cancer-program-fundamentals/oh-cco-pandemic-planning-clinical-guideline_final_2020-03-10.pdf
Guidance for overall pandemic service planning. Screening services included as priority C and not recommended when pandemic activity still resides in the province.
2. Canadian Society of Breast Imaging and Canadian Association of Radiologists Joint Position Statement on COVID-19. 2020 Mar 26 <https://car.ca/news/canadian-society-of-breast-imaging-and-canadian-association-of-radiologists-joint-position-statement-on-covid-19/>
See: Delaying screening has been shown to not significantly negatively impact outcomes if delayed for six to eight week. Guidance for PPE and when to resume services
3. The Canadian Society of Breast Imaging (CSBI) and the Canadian Association of Radiology (CAR) Guidelines for Breast Imaging during the COVID-19 Pandemic. 2020 Apr 2 https://car.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CAR-CSBI_Breast_Imaging_Guidelines_During_COVID-19_2020_04_02_EG.pdf
Same as above.

International

4. Europ Soc Med Oncol. ESMO management and treatment adapted recommendations in the COVID-19 era: Breast cancer. 2020 Apr <https://www.esmo.org/guidelines/cancer-patient-management-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/breast-cancer-in-the-covid-19-era>
Guidlines for the prioritization of cancer screening, diagnosis and management by cancer type.

5. Nat Accred Prog Breast Cancer (NAPBC)/Am College Surg. Recommendations for Prioritization, Treatment and Triage of Breast Cancer Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Executive Summary. 2020 Mar 25 <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/executive-summary>
Screening should be deferred until the pandemic is resolved (6-12months)
6. Society of Breast Imaging. SBI recommendations for a thoughtful return to caring for patients. 2020 Apr 16. https://www.sbi-online.org/Portals/0/Position%20Statements/2020/SBI-recommendations-for-a-thoughtful-return-to-caring-for-patients_April-16-2020.pdf
Guidance on PPE and prioritization of breast patients following COVID-19.
7. NZ Ministry of Health. COVID-19: Cancer and screening services. 2020 Apr 26
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-health-professionals/covid-19-cancer-and-screening-services>
Communication regarding resumption of screening services as a phased approach in NZ.
See: Cancer screening programs
See also: <https://www.timetoscreen.nz/breast-screening/covid-19-breast-screening/>
8. DynaMed. Recommendations for oncology Practices during COVID-19. 2020 Apr
<https://www.dynamed.com/management/covid-19-and-patients-with-cancer>
Note: mentions ASCO and ESMO guidance
9. Luker GD, Boettcher AN. Transitioning to a New Normal after COVID-19: Preparing to Get Back on Track for Cancer Imaging. 2020 Apr 15 <https://pubs.rsna.org/doi/10.1148/rycan.2020204011>

POTENTIAL INTEREST ITEMS

Canada

10. Important: Cancer Screening Programs and COVID-19. Update to BC Cancer Screening Program Availability (March 24, 2020). <https://bccfp.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/BC-Cancer-Screening-Programs-COVID-19-Update-March-24-2020.pdf>
Public communication pertaining to status of BC Screening Programs during COVID shutdown

International – **No relevant resources identified**

DATABASE RESULTS: *Note: some of the published articles here are listed as potentially relevant since they focus on breast cancer treatment but most within a context of an epidemic*

11. Dietz JR, Moran MS, Isakoff SJ, et al. Recommendations for prioritization, treatment, and triage of breast cancer patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. the COVID-19 pandemic breast cancer consortium. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2020:1-11.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32333293/>
Expert opinion of representatives from multiple American cancer care organizations categorized breast cancer patients into priority levels (A, B, C) for urgency of care across all specialties. They recommend all screening examinations including mammography, ultrasound, and MRI should be placed in Priority C and suspended until the post-COVID-19 period. BRCA mutation carriers under the age of 40 may be considered for screening if delays of more than 6 months are expected

RELEVANT ITEMS FOUND BY PREVIOUS SEARCHES

12. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Opening up America again: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Recommendations - Re-opening Facilities to Provide Non-emergent Non-COVID-19 Healthcare: Phase I; 2020 Apr 20: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-flexibility-reopen-essential-non-covid-services.pdf> - American resource that provides general guidelines for re-opening healthcare facilities to provide non-emergent and non-COVID-19 healthcare. Maximum use of all telehealth modalities is strongly encouraged. However, for care that cannot be accomplished virtually, these recommendations may guide healthcare systems and facilities as they consider resuming in-person care of non-COVID-19 patients in regions with low incidence of COVID-19 disease.
13. Canadian Cardiovascular Society. Management of referral, triage, waitlist and reassessment of cardiac patients during the COVID-19 pandemic; 2020 Apr 7: http://www.ccs.ca/images/Images_2020/Refer_Triage_Wait_Mgmt_07Apr20.pdf
See Section 5: Resumption of services policies provides some general guidance/considerations that may be relevant and applicable to breast cancer screening: *As COVID-19 wanes and access restrictions ease, hospitals, clinics and diagnostic services will return to normal. At this time, a phased-in approach to resume activities is anticipated. For currently constrained services, a resumption process should be planned. This includes a principles-based approach to determine which services expand first, how to resolve internal limited resource allocation disputes and development of a plan to address deferred consultation, diagnostic and therapeutic services. Accurate identification of referrals, diagnostic testing and procedural backlogs will be important. Human resources issues will need to be considered. Short- and long-term effects of the COVID pandemic on patient outcomes warrants further study.*
14. Stempniak M. How radiology practices can prepare for the 'surge' once routine cancer screenings resume. Radiology Business; 2020 Apr 20: <https://www.radiologybusiness.com/topics/leadership/radiology-practices-cancer-imaging-surge-pandemic-covid-19>
Review of ACR Guidance from a Value Based business magazine; aligned as it references ACR Guidance.
15. Moy L, Toth HK, Newell MS, Plecha D, Leung JWT. Response to COVID-19 in Breast Imaging. Society of Breast Imaging, 2020: <https://academic.oup.com/jbi/article/doi/10.1093/jbi/wbaa025/5814656v>
US Based. Selected SME leaders in breast imaging to respond to the questions: What is necessary breast imaging? What will be done if care will be delayed for one month? Two to three months? Longer? How are you protecting staff? How are you implementing social distancing? What do breast radiologists do when the schedule is mostly cleared out? What do staff do when the schedule is mostly cleared out?
16. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. Patient Access to Imaging Services in New Zealand – During and After COVID-19 Social Distancing; 2020 Apr 15: <https://www.ranzcr.com/documents-download/policy-and-advocacy-inc-position-statements-and-submissions/5118-position-statement-patient-access-to-imaging-services-in-new-zealand-during-and-after-covid-19-social-distancing>
White Paper- Recommendations for continuity of service para-pandemic private practice suggestions

17. The Canadian Society of Breast Imaging (CSBI) and the Canadian Association of Radiology (CAR) Guidelines for Breast Imaging during the COVID-19 Pandemic; 2020 Apr 2: https://car.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CAR-CSBI_Breast_Imaging_Guidelines_During_COVID-19_2020_04_02_EG.pdf
18. Royal College of Radiologists. RCR advice on non-urgent and cancer imaging during the coronavirus pandemic: <https://www.rcr.ac.uk/college/coronavirus-covid-19-what-rcr-doing/clinical-information/rcr-advice-non-urgent-and-cancer>
Discusses ramp down – not relevant to Ramp up - other resources offer credible – To Do type process steps & recommendations, communications, high level steps to shutting down non-essentials screening services.