Benefits of Alternative Hours in a Screening Mammography Program

Emory University Department of Radiology
Authors & Financial Disclosures

• Dr. Jean Kunjummen – None
• Dr. Lawrence Lea Gilliland - None
• Dr. Ronak Shah - None
• Dr. Elizabeth Krupinski – None
• Dr. Mary Newell - None
Purpose

• To evaluate the desirability and benefits of alternative hours for screening mammography in our patient population
• Goal is to improve overall screening mammography rates
Methods/Materials

- Institutional Review Board (IRB) determined the study to be exempt from review
- 10-question anonymous survey during Saturday screening mammography appointment
- 203 patients agreed to participate
- Questions related to:
  - Patient demographics (age, ethnicity, educational attainment)
  - Preferences/obstacles to following timely breast cancer screening
\[ X^2 = 1090.31, \ p < 0.0001 \]
$X^2 = 84.76, p < 0.0001$
Highest Level of Education

- No Schooling Completed
- Some School with No High School Diploma
- High School Graduate, Diploma or the Equivalent (e.g. GED)
- Some College Credit, No Degree
- Trade/Technical/Vocational Training
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's/Professional/Doctorate Degree
- Not Answered

\[ X^2 = 44.22, \ p < 0.0001 \]
• If Saturday or evenings are not offered, 24% are unlikely/highly unlikely to get a screening mammogram

Obtain Screening Mammogram if Saturday/Evening Times not Offered

\[ X^2 = 59.9, \ p < 0.0001 \]
• About one out of five women have missed a screening exam because alternative hours were not available

Missed a Routine Screening Exam during Normal Business Hours

\[ \chi^2 = 100.27, \ p < 0.0001 \]
• Two thirds report difficulty in taking time off from work/school as their major obstacle

\[ \chi^2 = 145.73, \ p < 0.0001 \]
• Overwhelmingly, 73% prefer Saturdays!

Most Preferred Time for Mammogram

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
<th>Not Answered</th>
<th>No Preference</th>
<th>Prefer Evening</th>
<th>Prefer Normal Business Hours</th>
<th>Prefer Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

\[ \chi^2 = 184.73, \ p < 0.0001 \]
Discussion

• Flexible hours for screening mammography are desired in our patient population
• Result in increase screening volume, allowing for earlier detection of breast cancer predominantly in our younger patient population
• Improve compliance to scheduled appointments, which may reduce overall costs
• About 1/4\textsuperscript{th} of patients are less likely to undergo breast cancer screening without alternative hours
Discussion

• Limitations
  • Single institution study with unique demographics
  • Relatively small sample size
  • Limits generalizability

• Larger scale study would be useful
Conclusion

• Flexibility in mammography business hours may increase breast cancer screening mammography rates in our community