

Breast Density and Implications: What do Patients Understand?

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No disclosures to report

Purpose

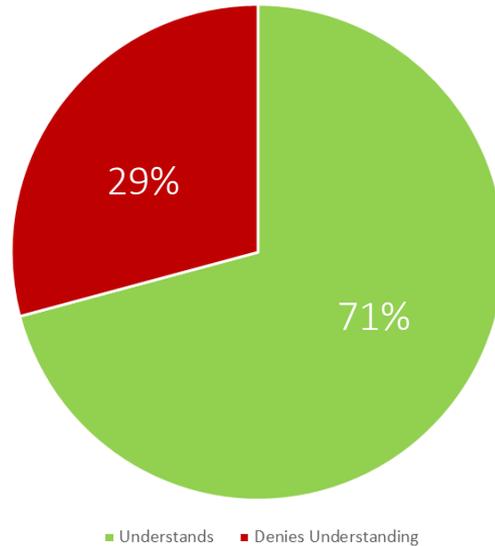
To assess patients' understanding of breast density readings, their opinions on state legislation regarding breast density, and their willingness to have an informed discussion regarding their density with a healthcare provider.

Materials and Methods

- An anonymous, voluntary survey was distributed to patients receiving breast imaging exams at an outpatient academic breast imaging center.
- The aim of the survey was to assess patients' understanding of the nuances of breast density and breast density legislation.
- 319 surveys were collected. The average respondent age was 58 years old. 85% were White, 10% Black or African American, and 5% Asian or Latino

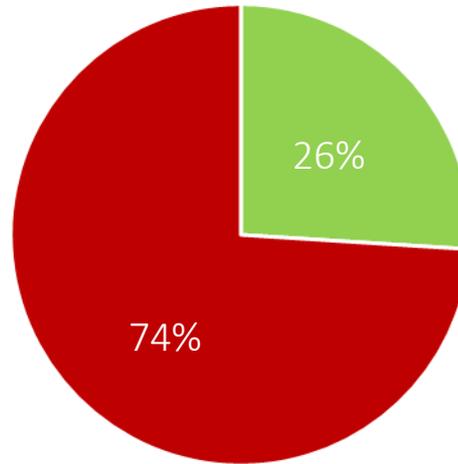
Breast Density

The majority of those surveyed reported understanding the concept of breast density.



Breast Density

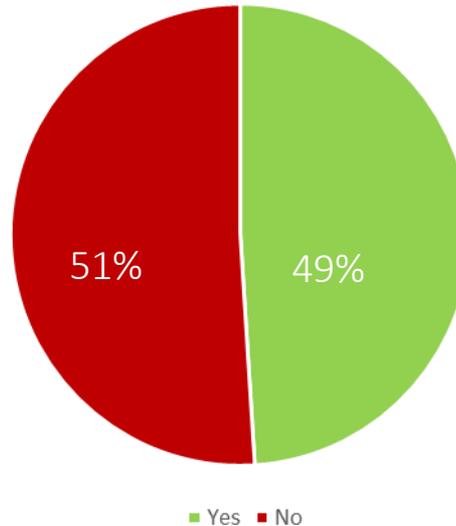
26% of surveyed patients reported receiving a letter regarding their breast density.



■ Received Letter ■ No Letter or Unsure

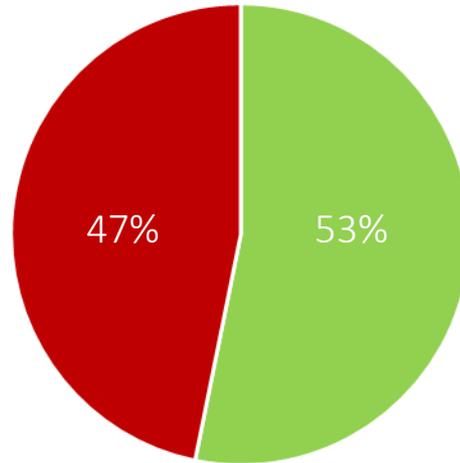
Breast Density

Of those who acknowledged receiving a letter regarding their breast density, around half (49%) understood what the letter explained.



Breast Density

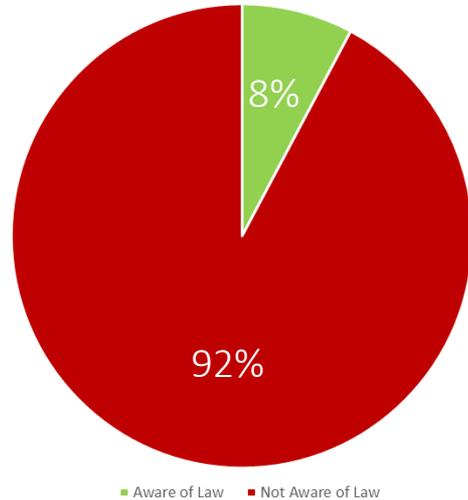
The majority (53%) of patients would be interested in receiving supplemental screening if they were to have dense breasts.



■ Interested in supplemental screening ■ Not interested in supplemental screening

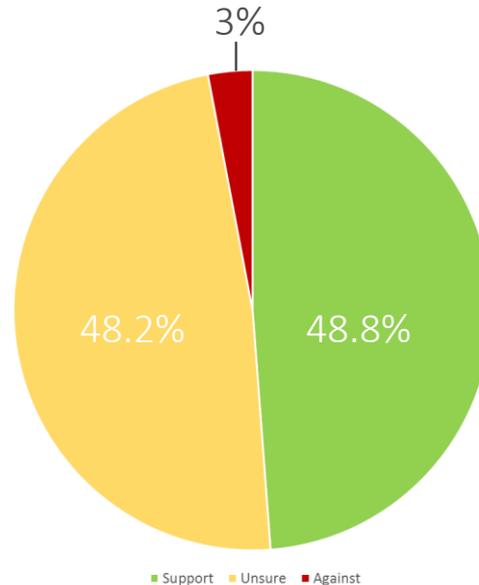
Breast Density Legislation

On July 1, 2014 Tennessee became the eighth state to enact breast density laws. After nearly five years, only 8% of patients surveyed were aware of the law.



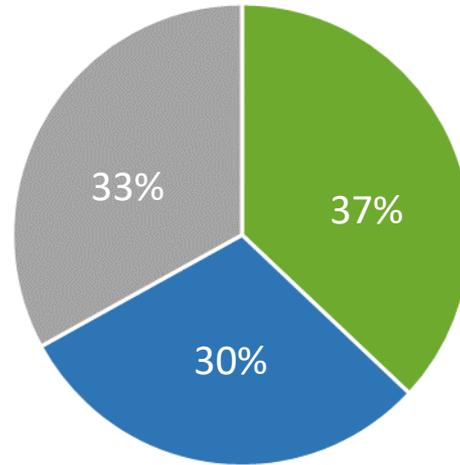
Breast Density Legislation

A very small minority of surveyed patients (3%) opposed the idea of states passing breast density notification laws. The remaining patients were split between supporting the measures (48.8%) or unsure (48.2%).



Breast Density and Risk

Respondents were split among which members of the healthcare team they would prefer to discuss their breast density and risk of breast cancer.



■ Radiologist ■ Radiology Technologist or Nurse Practitioner ■ Neither/Not Interested

Conclusions

Although most respondents were unaware of Tennessee's breast density notification laws, most reported understanding the concept and implications of having dense breasts.

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Only 3% of respondents were opposed to state legislation regarding breast density notification.

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Only 3% of respondents were opposed to state legislation regarding breast density notification.

Just over half of respondents would be interested in supplemental screening in the setting of dense breasts.