

Direct Radiologic Referral using 'One-Stop Shop' in detecting Breast Cancer

Albert
Schweitzer
ziekenhuis



Marc Kock¹, Marian Menke², Femmy Meenhorst¹
¹dept. of radiology, ²dept of surgery, Albert Schweitzer Hospital

Introduction

We describe the clinical implementation of a novel lean assessment using direct access to mammography or breast ultrasound after GP referral, using a One-Stop Shop assessment to save health care costs and increase patient satisfaction.

All referred patients were seen by a dedicated breast radiologist first and had direct access to mammography and breast ultrasound in one visit. The current national diagnostic work-up (usual care) however, includes an intake by a breast surgeon or a breast care nurse with referral to the radiologist. This novel assessment strategy was developed to offer a quick and lean assessment by one professional, in this case a breast radiologist (intervention).

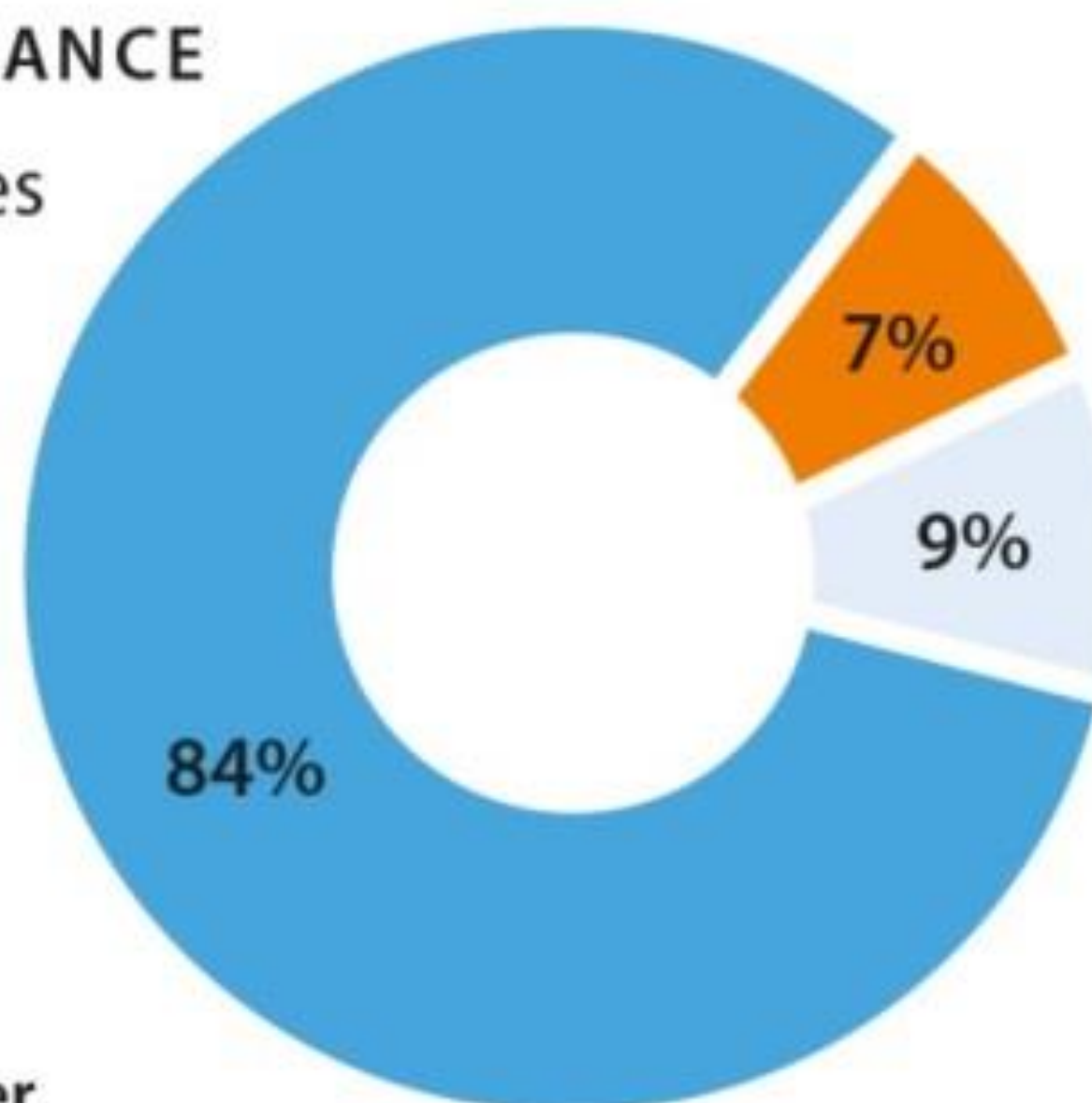


• REVERSAL OF CARE PATH
Mammogram followed by a consultation with the radiologist
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
Significantly fewer visits to surgeons and doctors

• THE FIGURES AT A GLANCE

10,000 mammographies per year

- no breast cancer after mammography (84% = 4708)
- breast cancer (7% = 398)
- no breast cancer after biopsy (9% = 518)



Approximately 5600 new patients with suspected breast cancer each year

84%

OF PATIENTS KNOW WITHIN THE HOUR THAT THEY DON'T HAVE BREAST CANCER



MAKING A MAMMOGRAM



RESULTS FROM THE RADIOLOGIST

COST-SAVINGS IN FIRST-LINE DIAGNOSTICS



Results

Efficiency: patients receive results of breast examination within one hour. This reduces unnecessary fear.

Visits: Per year 10,328 outpatient visits were saved in the diagnosis of breast pathology.

Costs: Due to the cheaper primary health care reimbursement for direct mammography or breast ultrasound 711,000 was less reimbursed compared to 1,245,000 euro reimbursement of multidisciplinary hospital reimbursement, which saves at least 534,000 euro health care costs per year from a society perspective.

Conclusion

When reversing the care path with direct referral to open access mammography and breast ultrasound nationwide would be implemented, it could save 17 million euro health care costs per year.