The History of **Mammography**

1913 – Albert Salomon visualizes tumors in the breast with radiography.

1930s – Stafford Warren is the first doctor to use mammography to diagnose breast cancer during pre-surgical observations.

1932 – Walter Vogel explains how X-rays can detect breast tissue differences. His guidelines are still used by today's physicians.

1960 – Jacob Gershon-Cohen and pathologist Helen Ingleby demonstrate the importance of mammography in early detection and publish the first standard work on the technique.

1960s – Mammography becomes a widely used diagnostic tool.

1963 – Philip Strax collaborates on a study of women showing that mammography reduces breast cancer deaths by up to 30%.

1965 – The first X-ray units dedicated to breast imaging become available.

1976 – Mammography as a screening device becomes standard practice.

1992 – Congress enacts the Mammography Quality Standards Act to help ensure all women have access to mammography for breast cancer detection.

1993 – A common language among doctors to report mammogram results is created by The American College of Radiology.

2000 – The FDA approves the first digital mammography system.

Photo from 1972 - The MAMMOMAT was the first Siemens system designed specifically for examining the female breast.
(Credit: https://www.medmuseum.siemens-healthineers.com/en/stories-from-the-museum/history-mammography)

2009 – The American Cancer Society reports that deaths due to breast cancer are down 30% as a result of early detection and treatment using mammography.

2011 – The FDA approves the United States' first 3D mammography system

2014 – Journal of the American Medical Association reports that 3D mammography technology finds significantly more invasive cancers than a traditional mammogram.

2017 – Siemens Healthineers launches the MAMMOMAT Revelation, the first system to determine breast density automatically.

2023 – The FDA issues a national requirement for dense breast reporting to patients and their referring providers.

2025 – The use of AI software for digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT) facilitates a higher cancer detection rate.

About Mammograms

A mammogram is a type of exam used to detect and diagnose early stages of breast disease in women. The medical exam uses noninvasive X-rays to produce pictures of each breast for a doctor to use to identify and/or treat any abnormalities which may indicate the presence of cancer.

The American College of Radiology and the Society for Breast Imaging recommend that women receive annual mammograms starting at age 40. The American Cancer Society advises that women over 55 may choose to switch to every two years.

Fast Facts:

Mammograms can detect cancers up to three years before a lump or pain can be felt.

85% of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease and are not considered high risk.

Advances in early detection and treatment methods have increased breast cancer survival rates in recent years, and there are currently over 4 million breast cancer survivors in the US.

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Sources:

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