

# Note on Digital Breast Tomography Synthesis and Mammography

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Imaging the breasts for screening or diagnostic purposes is the practice of breast imaging, which is a subspecialty of diagnostic radiology. Breast imaging can be done in a number of different ways with a variety of technologies, as will be shown in detail below. X-ray technology is used in traditional mammography screening and diagnosis. Breast tom synthesis is a new digital mammography technique that uses X-rays to make three-dimensional images of the breast. Xeromammography and galactography also use X-ray technology to make images of the breast, but they are only used occasionally to find breast cancer. Breast MRI is another technology reserved for high-risk patients and can help determine the extent of cancer if diagnosed. Finally, scintimammography is used in a subset of patients who have abnormal mammograms or whose screening is not reliable on the basis of using traditional mammography or ultrasound. Breast ultrasound is

another technology used in diagnosis and screening. It specifically can help differentiate between fluid-filled and solid lumps, which can help determine if cancerous.

It has a bogus negative (missed cancer) rate of somewhere in the range of 7 and 12 percent. This is in part because the cancer is obscured by dense tissues and because the appearance of cancer on mammograms

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