



SMIL UPHOLDS AGE 40 SCREENING MAMMOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

In light of the recent USPSTF recommendations for mammography, we would like to take a moment to express Scottsdale Medical Imaging Ltd.'s stance. At SMIL, we are committed to continuing the fight against breast cancer, regardless of age.

The USPSTF, a federal task force, released their new breast cancer screening guidelines on November 16, 2009, recommending that women start biennial mammogram screenings at age 50.

[The American Cancer Society \(ACS\)](#), [the American College of Radiology \(ACR\)](#), [Susan G. Komen for the Cure](#) and the [Society of Breast Imaging \(SBI\)](#), however, are standing behind existing guidelines for women to begin getting an annual mammogram starting at age 40. According to the ACR, the death rate from breast cancer has dropped 30 percent since these guidelines were put into effect in 1990. In fact, the ACS states that nearly one fifth of breast cancer deaths in 2006 were women who were diagnosed with breast cancer prior to age 50. Many women who develop breast cancer before age 50 have aggressive tumors that grow quickly.

SMIL will continue to follow the ACS breast cancer screening guidelines and recommend that women begin getting screened for breast cancer at age 40. The medical imaging community continues to work toward better tests. However, today, mammography remains the best tool for screening breast cancer and detecting it early.

As a community, we need to work toward raising awareness, educating the public and increasing screening access in order to beat this disease! Early detection truly is the best detection.



A MAMMO IS THE BEST AMMO

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