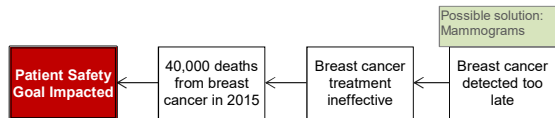


1 Problem

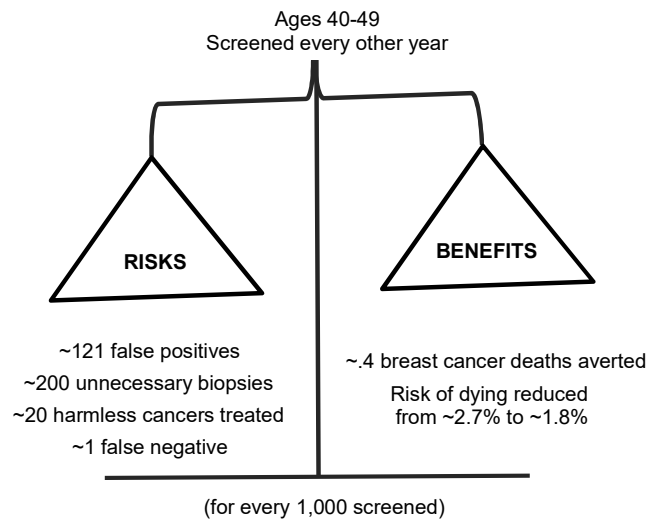
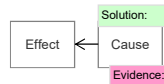
What	Problem(s)	Breast cancer, death from breast cancer
When	Date	Ongoing
Where	Different, unusual, unique	Highest incidence in women aged 55 to 64
	Facility, site	US
Impact to the Goals	Task being performed	Screening & treating breast cancer
	Patient Safety	40,000 deaths from breast cancer in 2015
	Frequency	Breast cancer 2nd leading cause of cancer death in women (after lung cancer)

2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.



Basic Cause-and-Effect



Recommendation: C
The USPSTF recommends selectively offering or providing this service to individual patients based on professional judgment and patient preferences. There is at least moderate certainty that the net benefit is small. (Note: this is only for women who are NOT at high risk)

RISKS VS BENEFITS OF MAMMOGRAMS

What's the best way to screen for & treat breast cancer?

Cause Map

In 2015, there were 40,000 deaths from breast cancer and 232,000 new cases of breast cancer in the United States. It is the second-leading cause of cancer death in women in the United States. The very high level cause-and-effect is that people (primarily women) die from breast cancer due to ineffective treatment. The later the cancer is detected, the later the treatment begins. If it's not detected, it's not treated. Currently the best solution for detecting breast cancer is a mammogram. But the matter of when mammograms should occur is based on risk-benefit analysis.

"The science supports mammography as an important tool in the fight against breast cancer. We believe the benefits increase with age. But there are harms, and particularly in their 40s, women have to make a decision for themselves."

- Dr. Michael LeFevre, former chairman of the United States Preventive Services Task Force

3 Solutions

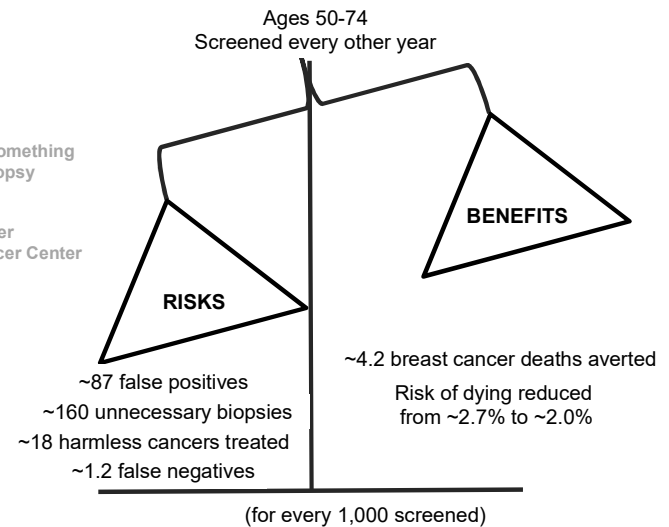
Currently the best solution for detecting breast cancer is a mammogram. But the matter of when mammograms should occur is based on risk-benefit analysis.

There's no question that mammograms save lives by detecting breast cancer. This is the benefit provided in the analysis. Lesser known are the risks of mammograms. Risks include false negatives, false positives, unnecessary biopsies, and unnecessary treatment. The radiation that may be used in treatment can actually be a cause of future breast (and other types) of cancer.

Opinions differ in a subjective analysis:

"The harm of a missed curable cancer is something profound. The harm of an unnecessary biopsy seems somewhat less to me."

- Dr. Clifford A. Hudis, chief of breast cancer medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Recommendation: B
The USPSTF recommends the service. There is high certainty that the net benefit is moderate or there is moderate certainty that the net benefit is moderate to substantial.

For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.

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