The Austrian breast cancer-screening programme

What you as a woman should know

Mammography examination
You are X-rayed by a qualified local radiologist.

Double-checking of results
Two radiologists will separately examine the images as a double check.

Ultrasound
Where medically necessary you will also undergo an ultrasound examination.

Clarification
A doctor in the relevant hospital will clarify abnormal results through further tests (e.g. biopsy).

Who is it for?
The breast cancer-screening programme is only for women who have shown no signs of breast disease.

Since 1 January 2014, the *"früh erkennen"* breast cancer-screening programme has been available in Austria.

1) Who can participate?

The *"früh erkennen"* screening programme for breast cancer is aimed at all women from the age of 40 upwards.

All women between the ages of 45 and 74 will automatically receive a personal invitation every two years to undergo a screening mammography (breast X-ray). This invitation informs you about the possibility of undergoing a screening mammography and reminds women to do this.

Women between 40 and 44 years of age or over 75 years of age may request an invitation by calling the serviceline on 0800 500 181 or using the web form available at www.frueh-erkennen.at.

2) Quality assurance and scientific evaluation in Tyrol

The pseudonymised data gathered in the course of the breast cancer-screening programme will be submitted for the quality assurance and scientific evaluation of the examination results in Tyrol to the Institute of Clinical Epidemiology (IET) of the hospitals in Tyrol, which will evaluate such data.

The IET holds the pseudonymised data in accordance with the data protection regulations under very strict data security conditions. Scientific evaluations are regularly published in report form on the homepage of the IET (www.iet.at).

Pseudonymised means that no individual can be identified through the data.

The pseudonymised data will contain your age, postcode, the date of examination, the reason for examination, the type of examination performed and its results.

To ensure the quality of the results, it is advisable that the hospital where any further radiological examination is conducted should inform your established radiologist regarding such examination.

Your personal health data will only be available to your radiologist.
The transmission of pseudonymised data from the examination does not breach the data protection regulations and meets the legal requirements.

In addition to data from this programme, the data from all curative breast examinations (mammography and/or breast ultrasound) will be gathered in pseudonymised form and evaluated for quality assurance purposes.

If personal designations are only given in the masculine form, they refer to women and men in the same way...

Only radiologists who are certified to perform mamma-diagnostics by the Austrian Medical Association may participate in the programme. The staff in the X-ray establishments are specially trained and highly experienced, while the equipment itself corresponds to the state of the art.

In order to protect sensitive data against misuse, it will be encoded in such a way that that no individual can be identified through the data ("pseudonymised").

It is highly probable that, following the screening examination, you will be informed that no signs of breast cancer have been found.

If abnormalities are discovered during the course of the mammography, further tests will be carried out.

In 7 out of 10 cases in Tyrol, the follow-up tests reveal no signs of breast cancer.

früh erkennen
ÖSTERREICHISCHES BRUSTKREBS-FRÜHERKENNUNGSPROGRAMM

What happens during a mammography?

A mammography is an X-ray examination. Each breast is examined in succession between two plastic plates. Some women describe the examination as unpleasant, even painful, while others find it unproblematic.

Should I participate in this programme?

Like every other medical procedure, the breast cancer-screening programme has its advantages and disadvantages. We wish to provide you with balanced information so that you can decide for yourself whether or not to participate in the screening programme. If you are not sure, please discuss it with your doctor.

What are the advantages and disadvantages?

- The aim of the screening examination is to discover any signs of breast cancer as soon as possible in order to ensure that treatment is as successful as possible.
- Treatment will thus usually be less critical and the breast is almost always preserved following any operation.
- Mammography as part of a quality-assured programme is currently the most reliable method for the screening of breast cancer. It cannot offer unambiguous results in all cases, however.
- Unfortunately, there also exist very fast-growing forms of cancer that may develop between two screenings. You should inform yourself of the possible signs of breast cancer and seek medical advice if you suspect something.
- The breast is subject to X-ray examination during a mammogram. The strict quality controls of the breast cancer-screening programme ensure that the dosage is kept to a minimum.
- Screening cannot prevent the development of breast cancer.
- Most experts believe that a quality-controlled screening programme offers more advantages than disadvantages.

Free telephone helpline 0800 500 181
Website **www.frueh-erkennen.at**

Declaration concerning provision of data

Dear patient,

Your doctor will have explained to you what your screening or diagnostic breast examination involves. Your breast examination result will be transmitted in encrypted, pseudonymised form (= personal data will be replaced by a secret number) for the purposes of evaluation, quality assurance and scientific analysis to the Institute of Health Data Competence Center (HDCC) of the hospitals of Tyrol (tirol kliniken) and to Gesundheit Österreich GmbH. The transmission of the pseudonymised data complies with the legal regulations. The use of a pseudonym means that it is not possible to identify you personally.

The pseudonymised data will contain the following information:

- year of birth, federal state of residence and political district
- encoded patient identification and pseudonymised social security number
- competent social security institution
- result of the breast examination
- data regarding the public health body responsible for treatment

We wish to draw your attention to the following points and ask you to sign the following declaration of consent and give it to your radiology specialist.

I declare that

- I have understood the medical explanation and have received sufficient information;
- In the event of a result requiring clarification, I will consult my doctor as soon as possible to discuss the findings and any further measures.

I agree that,

- the hospital in which further radiological examination will take place may notify my established radiologist that such further examination has been performed;
- A copy of the results of today's examination will be sent to my doctor for information if s/he desires.

Name of doctor:_____

Address: _____

- My pseudonymised data as described may be transmitted to the Institute of Clinical Epidemiology (IET) of the hospitals of Tyrol (tirol kliniken).

I may revoke my consent to the above at any time by means of a written declaration addressed to the radiological examination authority; no further forwarding of treatment results to the Institute of Health Data Competence Center (HDCC) may then take place.

Surname: _____

Forename: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____