

## Ultrasound Finds Small Cancers in Women with Dense Breasts and Normal Mammograms

Supplementing mammogram with ultrasound markedly increases cancer detection in women with dense breasts according to a study in *Radiology, October, 2002*. Thomas Kolb, M.D., a New York City radiologist and his co-authors report the results of 27,825 consecutive individual screening sessions performed on 11,130 women who had no signs or symptoms of breast cancer. The additional screening ultrasound increased the number of women diagnosed with non-palpable, invasive cancers by 42 percent. "While mammography detected 98 percent of cancer in women with fatty breasts it found only 48 percent in women with the densest breasts. The largest number of cancers found only by ultrasound in these women was small (70 percent were smaller than 1cm.) and 90 percent were node negative, thus conferring the best prognosis and the widest range of treatment options," said Dr. Kolb.

"It is important for women with dense breasts to have a mammogram before proceeding to ultrasound. It is the combination of mammography plus ultrasound that is most effective," said Dr. Kolb.