BCSC Newsletter for February 2013

This newsletter is produced by Group Health Research Institute/Group Health Cooperative, which manages the BCSC's Statistical Coordinating Center (SCC).

News & Announcements

Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium Risk Calculator

The Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC) developed a BCSC Risk Calculator for health professionals to estimate a woman's five-year risk of developing invasive breast cancer. The calculator was developed and validated in 1.1 million women undergoing mammography across the United States, among whom 15,000 were diagnosed with invasive breast cancer. The BCSC Risk Calculator is highlighted in the Stat Bite section of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, which reports the Distribution of 5-year Breast Cancer Risk in the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (bcsc) Estimated With the Bcsc Risk Calculator.

BCSC-NCI Outreach Flier

Invitations to collaborate with the BCSC, the nation's largest longitudinal collection of mammography data from breast cancer screening in community practice, were sent to BCSC collaborators, schools of Public Health, and authors of relevant breast cancer studies. Researchers can access BCSC data and analytic support and, thanks to funding from the National Cancer Institute, most services are available at no charge for approved proposals. View the BCSC-NCI Data Resource Flier.

JACR Best Article 2012 - Clinical Practice

The BCSC publication Radiologist Agreement for Mammographic Recall by Case Difficulty and Finding Type led by Tracy Onega, PhD, was the Editor's Choice in the Journal of the American College of Radiology (JACR). The study assessed agreement of mammographic interpretations by community radiologists with consensus interpretations of an expert radiology panel to inform approaches aimed at improving mammographic performance. Recognition of this award was published in the January 2013 issue.

Algorithms: Identifying Breast Cancer Recurrences

Two new algorithms for identifying breast cancer recurrences and second primary breast cancers from administrative healthcare data have been developed using data from more than 3,000 women at the BCSC Group Health registry. These algorithms promote efficient research on outcomes by letting researchers set a high priority on either sensitivity or specificity and PPV. Jessica Chubak, PhD of Group Health Research Institute led the HMORN CRN-affiliated, NCI-funded study. See JNCI publication. An "Implementation Guide" with SAS code is available to those wishing to use and validate the algorithms further. Contact Jessica Chubak, PhD for the guide or for more information.

BCSC in the News

When to start screening for breast cancer and how often?

BCSC researchers Karla Kerlikowske, MD and Diana Miglioretti, PhD analyzed a case study in the November 22 New England Journal of Medicine. Citing evidence about balancing the benefits and harms of screening mammography, they wrote that most women at average risk of breast cancer should start screening every other year at age 50, not yearly at 40-consistent with U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations and most countries with breast cancer screening programs. See full text.

Breast density does not influence breast cancer death among breast cancer patients

A study featured in the August, 2012 edition of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute reveals that the risk of mortality from breast cancer is not associated with high mammographic breast density in breast cancer patients. This study was led by Gretchen Gierach, PhD, as well as the following BCSC researchers: Laura, Ichikawa, MS, Karla
Kerlikowske, MD, Pamela Vacek, PhD, Donald Weaver, MD, and Stephen Taplin, MD. See full text. See JNCI press-release and NIH press-release.

People News

Please send us news about researchers at your site for future editions!

Diana Miglioretti, PhD, senior investigator at Group Health Research Institute (GHRI) started an appointment as the Dean's Full Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Public Health Sciences, School of Medicine, University of California, Davis on January 1, 2013. Dr. Miglioretti will remain a senior investigator at GHRI and will continue leading the BCSC-P01, "Risk-Based Breast Cancer Screening in Community Settings" as a Principal Investigator through GHRI.

Rebecca Hubbard, PhD, Assistant Investigator at the Group Health Research Institute (GHRI) took over for Dr. Miglioretti as Principal Investigator of the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium Data Resource (BCSC), a five-year $7.5 million contract from NCI to share BCSC data more widely. Dr. Hubbard's research aims to provide a clearer picture of the link between changes in disease over time and how people feel about their health. Her dynamic approach combines subjective and objective health outcomes to develop new longitudinal models for multistate disease progression.

Quarterly Spotlight

The Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC) is the nation's largest longitudinal collection of mammography data from cancer screening in community practice. Our collaborative network of mammography registries is supported by a Statistical Coordinating Center and funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). As a national resource for population-based comparative effectiveness research, the BCSC is paving the way for innovative studies of breast cancer screening and patient outcomes.

Information we collect:

- Women: demographics, risk factors, clinical history
- Mammography examinations: assessment, recommendation, breast density
- Facilities: services, technologies, characteristics
- Tumor registries and pathology labs: breast and ovarian cancer, benign breast disease, treatment
- Vital statistics: date and cause of death
Stat-Bite

Number of mammograms based on 1,961,894 unique women in the BCSC from 1996 - 2010


Upcoming Abstract Deadlines

**The 35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making (SEDM)**
Baltimore, MD
October 20-23, 2013
Call for abstracts and short courses will be open late February 2013

**6th International Breast Densitometry and Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Workshop**
San Francisco, CA
June 6-7, 2013
Abstract Submission Deadline: April 26, 2013

Upcoming Conferences

**6th International Breast Densitometry and Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Workshop**
San Francisco, CA
June 6-7, 2013

**American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting (ASCO)**
Chicago, IL
May 31-June 4, 2013

**American Society of Preventive Oncology**
Memphis, Tennessee
March 9-12, 2013

San Francisco, CA
March 20-23, 2013

**Society of Breast Imaging 11th Post-Graduate Course**
Los Angeles, CA
April 6-9, 2013

**American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting**
Washington, D.C.
April 6-10, 2013

**American College of Radiology (ACR) National Conference on Breast Cancer (NCBC)**
Hollywood, FL
April 13-15, 2012

**2013 ARRS Annual Meeting**
Washington DC
April 14-19, 2013