



Title	Mammography Screening. Evidence-Based Evaluation of Mammography-Based Breast Cancer Screening Programs
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Aim

To provide an evidence-based aid for program evaluation that can help in quality assurance and evaluation of Austrian mammography screening programs (implemented from the outset on the basis of international, evidence-based, high-quality criteria).

Conclusions and results

The regional government of Salzburg requested this report. It summarizes the current situation of mammography screening in Austria and describes in detail the international evidence on methods of evaluation in existing mammography screening programs. In the context of each of the programs, fields of activities are defined and outlined using different quality indicators and degrees of attainment of defined target values.

Quality indicators are grouped in different ways, but clinical parameters serve to build a firm core element. A framework was developed to understand possible correlations between the aspects defining a screening program. Various ways of description and formalization were considered and compared. The report correlates the programs' stakeholders and describes their methods of communication according to the procedural algorithm of screening. It shows that, at times, the quality of "hard" clinical indicators is highly dependant on technical, organizational parameters, or even aspects of data management and marketing. On one hand, these correlations address internal professional structures, while on the other hand they relate screening units to the women attending the screening program.

Conclusion: Clinical and economic parameters and target values are valid tools for evaluation only if they are regularly (re-)defined with regard to indicators in other fields that define a screening program.

Methods

Relevant literature was identified by systematic searches in 4 databases, by personal contact with experts, and by searching the Internet.