

DenseBreast-info, Inc. Launches Study to Assess Healthcare Provider Knowledge of Breast Density

Gynecologist Elizabeth Etkin-Kramer, MD, FACOG Joins Medical Advisory Board

Deer Park, N.Y., May 15, 2019 – DenseBreast-info.org (DB-I) today announced the launch of the research study to evaluate the effect of an educational intervention on primary care providers knowledge of breast density and its implications for breast cancer screening and risk, as well as their comfort level navigating patient discussions around the topic. The study, “*Improving Knowledge and Comfort in Discussing Breast Density Implications: Impact of DenseBreast-info.org on Healthcare Providers*,” was funded by a generous grant from the American Cancer Society.

Currently 38 states and the District of Columbia require healthcare facilities performing mammograms to provide some form of notification about breast density to patients and referring healthcare providers. Proposed changes to the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) addressing minimal notification were published in March 2019, with an expected implementation date of early 2021. This elevated awareness of the implications of breast density means that referring healthcare providers are becoming increasingly responsible for guiding discussions about what breast density means to their patients and whether supplemental screening of patients with dense breasts might be beneficial.

The study will be conducted using a large sample of U.S. healthcare providers practicing in the area of Women’s Health. The survey will be distributed with the help of *OBG Management*[®] magazine, who has shared the survey with over 23,000 healthcare providers in their database. Epidemiologist and Co-Investigator Robin Seitzman, PhD was instrumental in designing the study and survey instruments and will play a key role in conducting this research.

The Principal Investigator for the study is Wendie Berg, MD, PhD, Professor of Radiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Magee-Womens Hospital, Department of Radiology and Chief Scientific Advisor, DenseBreast-info.org. According to Dr. Berg, “This research study is designed to provide a better understanding of the educational needs of referring primary care providers in managing patients with dense breasts. We hope to use the study results to highlight the importance to the referring community of using a medically-sourced resource for improving care for their patients in this category. We recently added a gynecologist, Elizabeth Etkin-Kramer, MD, FACOG, to DB-I’s Medical Advisory Board to provide advice and assistance in disseminating this important information.”

Dr. Etkin-Kramer is a gynecologist in private practice in Miami Beach, Florida, with a particular interest in assessment for breast and ovarian cancer. She holds various district and a national committee position in ACOG and holds teaching positions at Florida International University School of Medicine and University of Miami School of Medicine.

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