

## Health Care Provider Knowledge Gaps on Breast Cancer Risk Must be Resolved to Improve Screening

*Third Research Study from DenseBreast-info.org Shows Knowledge Gaps among Healthcare Providers about Breast Cancer Risk Models and High-Risk Screening Recommendations*

DEER PARK, N.Y., Feb. 1, 2023 – [DenseBreast-info.org](https://DenseBreast-info.org) (DBI) today announced the results of the study, [“Effect of an Educational Intervention on Women’s Health Care Provider Knowledge Gaps About Breast Cancer Risk Model Use and High-risk Screening Recommendations.”](#) Published in the *Journal of Breast Imaging*, the research showed important knowledge gaps regarding the use of breast cancer risk models and high-risk screening recommendations, which can be effectively reduced with web-based education.

The study results showed that women’s health providers:

- Had confusion regarding which breast cancer risk models to use and national guidelines for high-risk breast cancer screening. For instance, less than half (48%) knew that the Tyrer-Cuzick model is used to identify women meeting high-risk MRI screening criteria and only 49% of providers knew the Gail model should not be used to identify women for high-risk MRI screening;
- Only 19% knew that for a high-risk 30-year-old both mammography/tomosynthesis and MRI are recommended.

This is the third research project in a [series](#) conducted by DBI to identify knowledge gaps among women’s health providers. Results of the first study, conducted in radiologists and radiologic technologists, were published in the [Journal of Breast Imaging](#) and detailed additional knowledge gaps.

The second study, [“Effect of an educational intervention on women’s healthcare provider knowledge gaps about breast density, breast cancer risk, and screening,”](#) published previously in *Menopause*, showed that:

- Just 29% knew breast cancer risk increases with increasing amount of glandular (dense) tissue;
- Slightly more than half (57%) knew women with extremely dense breasts have a four-to-six-fold increased risk compared to women with the least dense breasts.

“Women often turn to their health care provider with questions about breast density, screening and risk. This [series](#) of studies shows significant knowledge gaps exist among these providers,” said Robin Seitzman, PhD, MPH, Director of Education and Epidemiology Research, [DenseBreast-info.org](https://DenseBreast-info.org). “While there has been recent news coverage of knowledge gaps among women about breast density, risk and the effectiveness of mammography, it may be even more important to address critical gaps in knowledge among their health care providers.”

“It is encouraging that the research also shows that web-based education based on [DenseBreast-info.org](https://DenseBreast-info.org) content and reviewed in our CME course, [Dense Breasts and Supplemental Screening](#), helps reduce these knowledge gaps,” said 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](https://DenseBreast-info.org). “Our goal is to provide an educational resource for women’s health providers to increase provider comfort level in discussing the screening and risk implications of dense tissue and risk-based screening recommendations.”

DenseBreast-info.org is the world’s leading website on the topic. This medically-sourced tool is the collaborative effort of world-renowned breast imaging experts and medical reviewers and includes a comprehensive suite of [provider educational tools](#) and [patient resources](#).

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DenseBreast-info, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit supported by unrestricted educational grants and donations from: GE HealthCare, Bayer Healthcare, Bayer AG, Myriad Genetics, Hologic, Delphinus Medical Technologies, Volpara Health, Beekley Medical, iCAD, CMR Naviscan, FujiFilm and Vaso Healthcare.