

# ACR/SBI Breast Cancer Screening

## Recommendations for women at higher than average risk, 2018 update

Bronson's Multidisciplinary Breast Program Leadership Committee adopts the new American College of Radiology (ACR) and Society of Breast Imaging (SBI) [breast cancer screening guidelines](#) for women at higher-than-average-risk. These are the first guidelines to recognize that African-American women are at high risk for the disease and should be screened as such. The ACR and SBI now call for all women to have a risk assessment by age 30 to see if screening earlier than age 40 is needed. Free risk assessments are available through Bronson breast imaging centers. Women undergoing a mammogram will be assessed for risk at the time of the exam. Bronson breast health nurse navigators can provide a risk assessment to women not yet screening with mammograms, and those women needing a more in-depth evaluation. The societies also newly recommend that certain women previously diagnosed with breast cancer be screened with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Factors that contributed to the ACR/SBI reclassification conclude that African-American women:

- Are 42 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than non-Hispanic white women despite roughly equal incidence rates.
- Have a two-fold higher risk of aggressive — “triple-negative” — breast tumors,
- Are less likely to be diagnosed with stage I breast cancer, but twice as likely to die of early breast cancers.
- Have a higher risk of BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic mutations than those of Western European ancestry. These carriers are at much higher risk for breast cancer.

According to 2015 National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) data, since mammography became widespread in the 1980s, the U.S. breast cancer death rate in women, unchanged for the previous 50 years, has dropped 43 percent. Breast cancer deaths in men, who have the same treatment as women but are not screened, have not declined. Bronson continues to recommend that women at average breast cancer risk begin screening at age 40. Guidance charts on breast cancer screening guidelines, including a [breast cancer screening decision support tool](#) and [high-risk breast screening guidelines](#) can be found on the Bronson intranet.