

Population Screening Act: Tomosynthesis in the national breast cancer screening programme

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Executive summary

Health Council of the Netherlands

The health screening organisation *Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland*, in collaboration with Radboud University Medical Centre (Radboudumc), has applied for a permit to study the use of digital breast tomosynthesis in the national breast cancer screening programme. At the request of the Minister for Health, Welfare and Sport, the Health Council's Committee on Population Screening has assessed whether this application meets the requirements in the Population Screening Act (*Wet op het bevolkingsonderzoek, WBO*).

Digital breast tomosynthesis is an x-ray technique that creates pseudo-three-dimensional images of the breast, instead of the two-dimensional images created with digital mammography. The researchers expect that using tomosynthesis will improve cancer detection rates. The study for which the permit is being requested will explore short and long-term effects, feasibility of using AI for evaluation of tomosynthesis images, acceptability of tomosynthesis and its cost-effectiveness.

The Committee has concluded that the study is scientifically sound and the benefits outweigh the possible risks to the participants. The study also complies with the rules for medical practice. For these reasons, the Committee recommends that the Minister grant the requested permit.

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