

1st Belarusian pilot breast cancer screening program results

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Belarus is a middle-income eastern European country with 9.5 million citizens. Breast cancer has the second (after non-melanoma skin cancer) highest incidence in females in Belarus. Age-standardized (World) incidence rate increased from 43.4 per 100,000 in 2008 to 45.5 per 100,000 in 2013. Age-standardized (World) mortality rate slightly decreased from 13.8 per 100,000 in 2008 to 12.8 per 100,000 in 2013 but still remains relatively high in comparison with high-income European countries.

The first pilot breast cancer screening program started in the year 2012 at Sovetskij district of Minsk city for the women of 50–69 age group residing in that region. The program recommends biannual free of charge breast cancer screening with digital mammography as the screening tool. This report gives results of program to the period from 2012 to 31 June 2016.

All eligible women were registered by using electronic records from 5 outpatient clinics of the district. Women were invited to mammography via personal communication or by phone calls. Coverage by invitation was not calculated. The size of the target population was 21670 women.

First reading was done on the site of fixed mammography unit, second reading and further assessment – on the site of Minsk city cancer centre. 35.7% of the eligible population was covered by mammography.

The original 5-tier classification of radiological findings was proposed but program audit discovered shift to European 5-tier classification.

The recall rate due to positive mammography was 18.7% (1,446/7,730). The detection rate was 0.62% (48/7,730). There were 3 cases of stage 0 breast cancer, 23 cases of stage I, 12 cases of stage II, 7 cases of stage III, 3 cases of stage IV. The positive predictive value due to positive mammography was 3.3%.