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Use of MammoPad Breast Cushion in a Screening Mammography Cohort

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Abstract Body

Introduction: Women who have a positive experience at screening are more likely to return for re-screening every two years. On occasion, the lifting of the breast during mammographic positioning can cause a skin tear in the inframammary breast tissues. In 2015, ninety skin tears were recorded in the incident management system of a state-wide screening program. A review of these incidents indicated that they were more common amongst clients who presented with red, fragile skin associated with intertrigo. Also, clients who had a skin tear on one mammogram were at greater risk of having a skin tear at subsequent screening episodes. **Method:** In a cohort of clients who have previously reported skin tears at screening, the current study examined the effectiveness of using a radiolucent mammography cushion (MammoPad) to reduce the incidence of inframammary tears. Secondary objectives were to determine whether the breast cushion reduced discomfort during screening and to assess whether the MammoPad compromised mammographic image quality and / or increased radiation dose. **Results:** Preliminary results are favourable showing client comfort is improved when the breast is cushioned during mammographic compression. Final data will be available in early 2018. **Conclusion:** Minimising the incidence of breast tears whilst reducing the pain and discomfort experienced by clients undergoing mammography represents an important quality improvement initiative that may promote continued participation in the BreastScreen program.