

Why do you receive an invitation from your local health authority?

To remind all women from 50 to 69 years old that early breast cancer diagnosis is possible through regular mammograms, free every 2 years. The objective is to flag the presence of even tiny tumors, not otherwise identifiable, to maintain the integrity of the breast, and, in many cases, to save lives.

Women between 45 and 49 can also get a free mammogram every two years: they will not receive a letter of invitation, but they can ask their family doctor for a specific referral with cost exemption. Women between 70 and 74 years old can call the toll-free hotline screening number of their local health authority and ask to continue to undergo mammograms through the Screening Program.

The Screening Program is offered free of charge, including mammography and further examinations or any treatment that may become necessary.

If you never received an invitation from your local health centers or you have never joined the program, you can call the toll-free hotline number of your local health authority to book an appointment.

What is a Mammogram?

A mammogram is an x-ray picture of the breasts, it is the most specific, sensitive and effective examination for early diagnosis of breast cancer.

Is it painful?

No. Some women will find the compression of the breast uncomfortable for a few minutes.

Is it a risky examination?

No, digital mammograms using very few X-rays are used for the screening.

After having a Mammogram?

If the result is normal, the Screening Center will send a communication of the negative result directly at your home through a letter, and after two years they will send a new invitation to repeat the mammogram. If additional examinations (ex. ultrasounds) are necessary to determine the final diagnosis, the local health authority will contact the woman by phone to rapidly arrange an appointment.

If the result is positive, the Screening Center will contact the person directly by telephone to invite her to undergo a detailed ultrasound scan, always free of charge. Any further examination and successive treatments, if necessary, are booked and provided directly and still free of charge by the local health authority.

Can I be confident?

Mammograms results are evaluated separately by two expert radiologists who conduct thousands of tests each year, in the manner required by European recommendations.

Radiologists working in Screening Programs must participate in continuous training programs, be dedicated to breast health for at least 50% of their work, and conduct at least 5,000 mammograms every year.

All procedures follow the national and European guidelines and are subjected to quality controls.

