

If you have been told that you have dense breasts supplemental screening with automated breast ultrasound may be beneficial for you as part of your regular screening for breast cancer.

It is important for you to understand the following about breast density (BI-RADS category C and D) which you may have been told you have or seen on your report.

1. Greater breast density results in lower sensitivity for mammography and higher likelihood that cancer will be missed.
2. The assessment of breast density is subjective and, therefore, variable.
3. Density itself is a risk factor. Women with dense breasts have approximately 1.5 to 3 times higher risk than the average woman, or woman with fatty breasts.
4. Breast density can be affected by age and weight and therefore can change over time.
5. **Routine screening mammogram is recommended for women over age 40. ABUS (automated breast ultrasound) is not a substitute for your mammogram. ABUS is supplementary to your mammogram.**

**Note that supplementary screening for dense breast (ABUS) is currently not approved by OHIP. There will be a charge for this service.*

Insurance companies are slowly recognizing the utility of this service, and some are covering it under their benefits plans.