

Evidence Discussion (BR 12)

A number of studies have found that transgender patients who have transitioned from female to male have the same risk of developing breast cancer as their cis-gendered female counterparts.¹⁻³ As such, those who still have breast tissue (i.e., have only undergone reduction mammoplasty or no chest surgery), should be screened similarly to cis-gendered women.

The American College of Radiology Appropriateness criteria recommend the use of ultrasound and/or MRI for patients who are at intermediate to high risk based on either having a lifetime risk $\geq 20\%$, a personal history of breast cancer, lobular neoplasia or atypia, chest wall irradiation, or have a genetic predisposition to developing breast cancer.³ The ACR, does however, recommend transmasculine (female-to-male) patients start screening earlier than their cis-gendered counterparts (starting at 25-30 years of age).³

For transmasculine patients who are at low to average risk, mammography alone is sufficient.¹⁻³ Patients who have had bilateral mastectomies have minimal residual breast tissue, such that breast cancer screening using imaging is not indicated.¹⁻³

The ACR found insufficient evidence to support the use of routine MRI screening in transfeminine (male-to-female) patients, regardless of duration of hormone use and/or genetic factors. Transfeminine patients who would otherwise be considered “high risk” based on personal or family history may consider annual mammography. Similarly, mammography may be appropriate in transfeminine patients who have taken feminizing hormones for more than 5 years.³

References

1. Sterling J, Garcia MM: Cancer screening in the transgender population: a review of current guidelines, best practices, and a proposed care model. *Transl Androl Urol* 9:2771-2785, 2020
2. Clarke CN, Cortina CS, Fayanju OM, et al: Breast Cancer Risk and Screening in Transgender Persons: A Call for Inclusive Care. *Ann Surg Oncol* 29:2176-2180, 2022
3. Brown A, Lourenco AP, Niell BL, et al: ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Transgender Breast Cancer Screening. *J Am Coll Radiol* 18:S502-s515, 2021