

# Tyrolean Information Leaflet

## for the Austria-wide Breast-Cancer Screening Programme

### What every woman should know

about the Austrian Breast-Cancer Screening Programme

#### Mammogram screening

You are X-rayed by a specially qualified radiologist close to your home.

#### Two independent opinions

Two radiologists independently examine your X-rays, providing a first and second opinion

#### Ultrasound

If necessary on medical grounds, you may also be given an ultrasound.

#### Diagnostic tests

If anything unusual is detected, a doctor at your local hospital carries out further tests (for example, a biopsy).

#### Who is the screening for?

The breast-cancer screening programme is intended for women who have no indications of disorders of the breast.

The "Discover Early" breast-screening programme has been available in Austria since 1.1.2014. Since the start of 2014, the former Tyrolean Mammogram Screening Programme and breast screening in the context of Tirol's general health-screening service have therefore been incorporated into the nation-wide programme. In Tyrol, however, the "Discover Early" programme includes the following additional services:

#### 1) Who can take part?

In Tyrol, all women who are over 40 but not yet 70 by the end of 2013 will automatically receive a personal invitation for a mammogram examination (breast X-ray) every two years. **The invitation will inform them of the availability of breast screening and remind them to take advantage of it.** Women who reach the age of 40 after 2013 and **women over 70** can request an invitation by phoning the advice line on **0800 500 181** or **completing a form** at **www.frueh-erkennen.at**.

#### 2) Scientific analysis in Tyrol

As with the former Tirol Mammogram Screening Programme, **pseudonymised** data collected in the "Discover Early" programme will be submitted to the Institute for Clinical Epidemiology (IET) of the Tiroler Landeskrankenanstalten (TILAK) (Tyrolean Hospital Association). There it will be analysed for **quality assurance** purposes and for **scientific evaluation** of the screening results for Tyrol. The pseudonymised data will be stored at the IET in conformity with **data protection** regulations, meaning that the strictest data security provisions will be adhered to. Scientific analyses will be published regularly in the form of reports on the IET's Homepage ([www.iet.at](http://www.iet.at)).

The pseudonymised data include **age, post-code, date of examination, reason for examination, type of examination carried out, and examination results.**

**"Pseudonymised" means that no individual can be identified from the data. Your personal** health records will continue to be kept only by your own radiologist.

As well as data from the screening programme, data from all **curative breast examinations** (mammogram and/or ultra-sound) will also be collected in pseudonymised form and analysed for **quality assurance.**

If any further radiological tests are required, it is helpful for the hospital that carries out any further radiological tests to inform your own radiologist of the results. Pseudonymised data **may be transferred under data protection law** but this requires your **knowledge and consent** (see page 3).

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## for the Austria-wide Breast-Cancer Screening Programme

Only radiologists with a **Certificate in Mammary Diagnostics from the Austrian Medical Association** may participate in the programme. The staff of the X-ray centres are specially trained and very experienced, and the X-ray machines themselves represent the most advanced technology.

To protect sensitive data from misuse, records are encrypted so that they do not identify individuals ("pseudonymised").

After screening, it is highly likely that you will receive a notification that no evidence of breast cancer has been found

If abnormalities are detected, further tests will be carried out.

In **7 out of 10 cases**, follow-up tests in Tirol showed **no breast cancer**.



**Free advice line**

0800 500 181

**Website**

[www.frueh-erkennen.at](http://www.frueh-erkennen.at)

### What happens during mammogram screening?

A mammogram is an X-ray examination. Each breast in turn is compressed between two plastic plates. Many women describe the examination as unpleasant, some find it painful, while others find it unproblematic.

### Should I take part in this programme?

Like every other medical procedure, screening programmes for breast cancer have both advantages and disadvantages. Our intention is to give you balanced information, so that you are able to make your own decision about whether to take part in screening or not. If you feel unsure, please talk to your doctor about it.

### What are the advantages and disadvantages?

- The aim of breast screening is to detect breast cancer as early as possible so as to have the best chance of treating it successfully.
- Early detection allows treatment to be carried out with the least possible intervention. For example, operating early means the breast can almost always be saved.
- In the context of a quality-assured programme, a mammogram is currently the most reliable method for detecting breast cancer early. However, even mammograms do not always deliver unambiguous results.
- Unfortunately, there are also very fast-growing forms of breast cancer which can develop during the interval between two examinations. You should therefore be aware of possible signs of breast cancer and see a doctor as quickly as possible if you notice anything suspicious.
- During mammograms, the breast is examined using X-rays. The screening programme's strict quality controls ensure that exposure to radiation is kept as low as possible.
- Screening cannot prevent the development of breast cancer.
- Most specialists believe that a quality-controlled screening programme offers more advantages than disadvantages.

## Data-transfer consent

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Dear Programme Participant,

Your doctor has explained the mammogram examination procedure to you and given you the information leaflet about the additional benefits of the Austria-wide Breast-Cancer Screening Programme in Tyrol. Under data-protection law, pseudonymised test data may be transferred, but this requires the knowledge and consent of the person concerned. We therefore request that you kindly sign and submit the following declaration of consent.

**I hereby declare:**

- That I have understood the explanation given and have been sufficiently informed.
- That if the examination shows anything unusual which requires further diagnostic tests, I will go to my medical consultant as soon as possible to discuss the results and possible further steps.

**I agree:**

- That my pseudonymised data (=personally identifiable data is replaced by a confidential number) may be transferred, as described, to the Institute for Clinical Epidemiology (IET) of the Tiroler Landeskrankenanstalten (TILAK).
- That the hospital responsible for further diagnostic X-ray testing may inform my radiologist that the tests have been carried out.
- That the results of my therapeutic breast examinations (mammogram and/or ultra-sound) may be collected and used for quality assurance purposes in pseudonymised form.
- That, if requested, my own doctor may be sent a copy of the results of today's test for his/her information.

Doctor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I may revoke this agreement at any time by making a written request to the radiology test centre. My pseudonymised data, stored under the data protection act at the Institute for Clinical Epidemiology (IET), will then be deleted. No further transfers of therapeutic treatment results will be made.**

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

