COVER LEGEND


Mammography and clinical examination were performed in 31,000 women, 40 to 64 years old, selected and invited for screening, of whom two-thirds accepted. Comparisons were with 31,000 women in a matched control group (J. Am. Med. Assoc., 195: 731, 1966). After five years of follow-up, there was a significant reduction in mortality from breast cancer in the study group women: 40 versus 63 (Seventh National Cancer Conference, September 27–29, 1972; J. Am. Med. Assoc., 215: 1777, 1971). Reduced mortality was concentrated among women 50 years of age or older.

The study is an excellent model of a systematic, designed field evaluation of a screening procedure for cancer.

The three investigators conducting the study are:

Sam Shapiro, B.S., Vice-President and Director of the Department of Research and Statistics of the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, born in New York in 1914. With a background of mathematics and statistics from Brooklyn College, Columbia University, and George Washington University, he was with the National Office of Vital Statistics for eight years and in 1955 joined HIP, conducting research in the epidemiology of coronary heart disease, pregnancy outcome, and delivery of health care. He is now Professor of Medical Care and Hospitals at the School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University.

Philip Strax, M.D., was born in New York in 1909 and obtained his medical degree from New York University Medical School in 1931, with subsequent training in radiology. He is currently Director of Radiology, LaGuardia Hospital, New York City, Associate Clinical Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine at New York Medical College, and Director of the Guttman Institute of New York City. Louis Venet, M.D., was born in New York in 1914 and was graduated from New York University College of Medicine in 1937. He specialized in surgery. At present he is Director of the Department of Surgery of the Jewish Memorial Hospital, Attending Surgeon in charge of Breast Service, Beth Israel Medical Center, New York City, and Associated Clinical Professor of Surgery at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York.

We are indebted to the three investigators for their portraits and the information: Shapiro (upper), Strax (lower left), and Venet (lower right).

M. B. S.