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# Breast Cancer: earlier warning system

Futility and frustration beset the physician confronted with breast cancer. For the last 35 years, the survival rate has not significantly changed despite intensive educational programs aimed at earlier detection, and improvement in treatment techniques.

What is the outlook? We know the key to reducing mortality from breast cancer is in the *earliest possible* diagnosis. The stage at which breast cancer is detected is *crucial* to the outcome of treatment. By the time a lump is discovered through BSE or clinical examination, critical time may have been lost.

And we do have the means to achieve earlier diagnosis. We do have an *earlier* warning system. Mammography and thermography can detect breast cancer *before* a lump is discernible by palpation. To demonstrate that it is practical and feasible to detect breast cancer earlier by using these modalities, the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute are funding a network of breast cancer demonstration projects. Supported by grants of \$2-million from

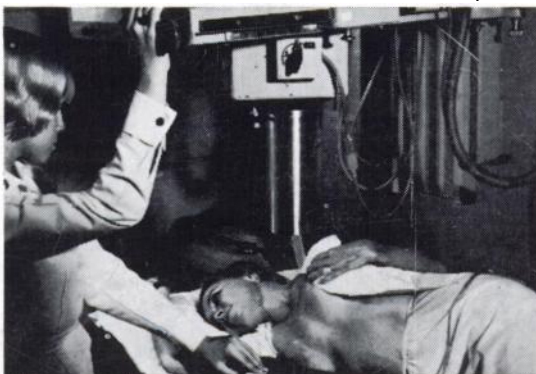
the ACS and \$4-million from the NCI, 20 such centers are expected to be operative across the country by the end of the year. Each will screen at no charge, approximately 5,000 women annually, in what is considered to be the ideal detection program—to include clinical examination, mammography and thermography.

Each of these detection methods contributes independently to the detection of breast cancer, and none can be dispensed with in the search for early disease.

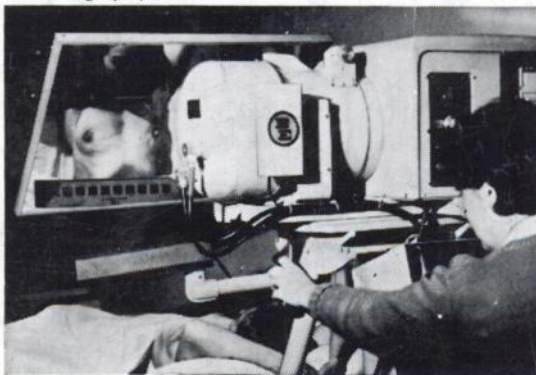
At present we cannot prevent breast cancer, but the potential for saving more lives is immense. The five-year survival rate surges dramatically from 53% when axillary nodes are positive, to approximately 85% when the disease is localized, to nearly

100% for in-situ cancer.

We have an earlier warning system. Let's use it.



Mammography



Thermography

**american cancer society**