2019 RESEARCH FAST FACTS
Early Detection

Research Saves Lives

Finding breast cancer early, when it’s easiest to treat, can save lives. Research estimates that regular screenings with mammography have resulted in 30 percent fewer deaths from breast cancer.

However, mammography is not perfect. It can sometimes miss tumors or identify tumors that are not cancerous, particularly in women with dense breasts or who are at high risk for developing breast cancer.

Komen is committed to finding better, more-sensitive methods for detecting and identifying breast cancer earlier.

Our Research Investment
1982–2019

More than $39 million in over 130 research grants and more than 50 clinical trials focused on Early Detection

What We’re Investigating

Testing whether new imaging technologies, such as molecular breast imaging (MBI) or digital tomosynthesis, can provide more accurate detection and diagnosis of breast cancer than mammography or ultrasound

Identifying whether genetic or other cellular differences can be detected in tissue or blood and used to create biomarker tests to screen for and detect breast cancer early

Developing resource-based, culturally appropriate guidelines for breast cancer screening and early detection in low and middle income countries

What We’ve Learned from Komen-funded research

Ultrasound tomography, a technique that uses sound waves to create 3-D images, was found to be more effective at detecting breast cancer than mammography, especially for women with dense breasts.

A simple blood test that looks for the presence of a unique set of proteins may soon be used to detect breast cancer in its earliest stages when it’s most treatable.

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