Re: Variation in Mammographic Breast Density by Time in Menstrual Cycle Among Women Aged 40–49 Years

With respect to the report by White et al. (1) that discussed the variation in mammographic breast density by time in the menstrual cycle among women aged 40–49 years, in addition to the authors’ recommendation that mammograms be performed during the first 2 weeks after menses when the breasts are less dense, there is an additional hypothetical reason why the breasts should not be exposed to radiation therapy during the premenstrual period. As Meyer et al. (2) have shown, the breast ductal cells cycle with the menstrual cycle and a greater proportion are in the \( G_2 \) phase during the premenstrual phase of the menstrual cycle. If radiation therapy is to induce a carcinogenic mutation, it would have to do so when the ductal cells are in the \( G_2 \) phase. Also, the breasts are more tender during the premenstrual phase, adding to the discomfort of compression from the mammograms.

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**REFERENCES**


**NOTES**

*Editor’s note:* The authors of the original paper (1) declined to respond.

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