Symptom recall in screening programme as positive predictive value (PPV): an Italian single center experience

Aims and objectives

to compare the incidence of breast cancer between two group in the same population already checked by screening program: first group is madeof the symptom recalls and the second group is made of second level screening in order to evaluate the symptom as a positive predictive value.

Methods and materials

We reviewed a retrospective cohort of 3752 patients involved in second level screening program for breast cance, in a single Italian center, between January 2010 and September 2018. We evaluated two different groups: the symptom recall (SR) and second level recall excluding symptom recall (LR). We compared the incidence of breast cancer between the two groups. We classified as acceptable a symptom recall which was maximum of 6 months earlier than the official call.

Results

we obtained a final cohort of 176 Symptom Recall (SR) group with a total of 24 cases of cancer where the incidence was 12%. We analyzed 3376 cases of second Level Recall (LR) group with a total of 216 cases of cancer where the incidence was 6,39%. In 15 cases of cancer in SR group 15 (62%) have been evalueted with a not acceptable time between symptom and timing of screening program

Images for this section:

Fig. 1: Negative mammogram of dense breast at Screening Program. LCC view.

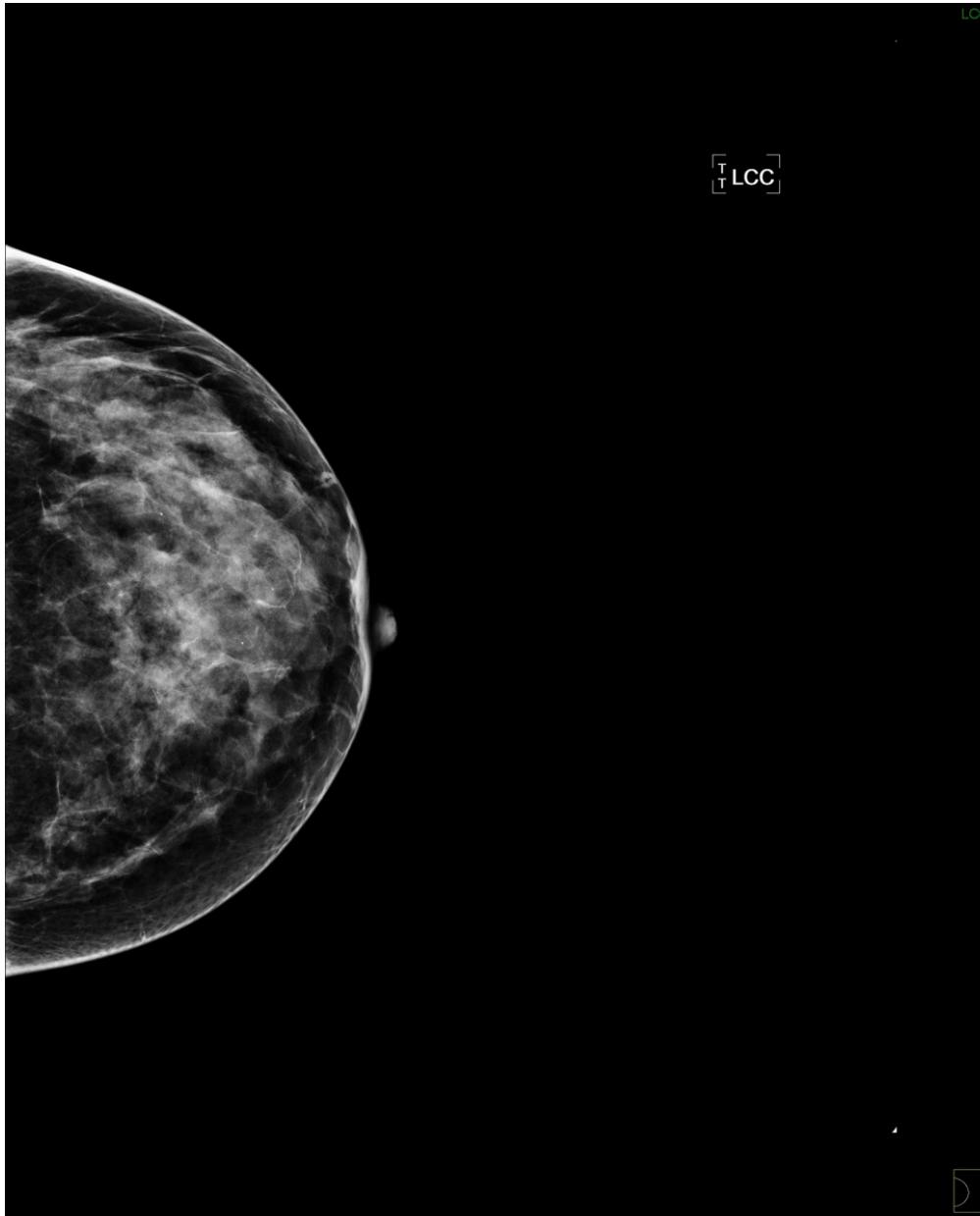© Radiology, Fatebenefratelli Hospital - Milan/IT

Fig. 2: Negative mammogram of dense breast at Screening Program. LMLO view

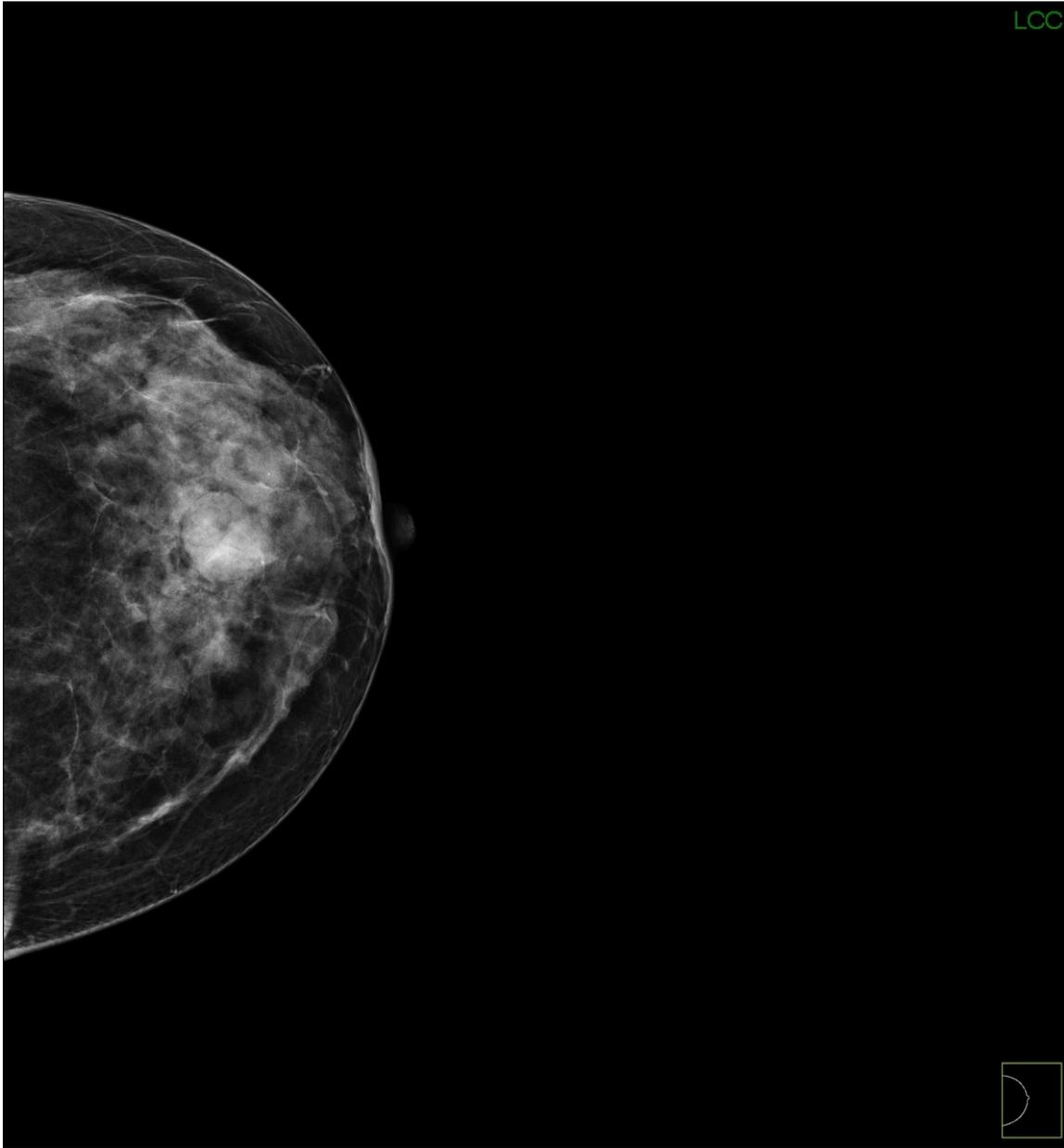© Radiology, Fatebenefratelli Hospital - Milan/IT

Fig. 3: Symptom recall: retroareolar mass, LCC view.

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Fig. 4: Symptom recall:upper quadrant mass, LMLO view.

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Conclusion

Our results show how the symptom is a certain positive predictive value (PPV) even in a screened women population. Our study suggests that a shorter follow-up than 2 years, which is the nowdays italian timing, it could be a better timing for screening program in order to avoid diagnosis of cancer as a palpable lesion and decrease the anxiety in woman with palpable breast mass.

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