
ERRATUM

Volatile Markers of Breast Cancer in the Breath

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Due to an inadvertent printing error the TN values in Table 4 did not appear. The following is the corrected Table 4.

Table 4. Predicted Outcome of Screening 10,000 Women for Breast Cancer with a Breath Test or a Mammogram

		Breast cancer		
		Absent (9961)	Present (39)	
Screening mammogram				
Negative	TN = 9363	FN = 10		NPV = 9363/9373 = 99.89%
Positive	FP = 598	TP = 29		PPV = 29/627 = 4.63%
Breath test				
Negative	TN = 7351	FN = 5		NPV = 7351/7356 = 99.93%
Positive	FP = 2610	TP = 34		PPV = 34/2644 = 1.29%

In women 60–69 years of age the prevalence of breast cancer is 3.3–3.9/1000, so that a group of 10,000 women will include 39 with previously undetected breast cancer (19). The table shows the predicted outcome of screening this group with a breath test (sensitivity 88.2%, specificity 73.8%) or a mammogram (sensitivity 75%, specificity 94%) (20). The breath test is more sensitive and less specific than a screening mammogram, and a screening breath test would exhibit a higher negative predictive value (NPV) and a lower positive predictive value (PPV) than a screening mammogram.