

Physicians Insurers Association of America 2002 Study Highlights

BREAST CANCER STUDY
Third Edition



- Data sharing project between 26 PIAA members on delay of diagnosis of breast cancer and malpractice
- Study involves suits and claims paid since 1995
- 450 malpractice cases cited a “delay in diagnosis of breast cancer”
- Claimant's age ranged from 20 to 77 years. Average age was 45.

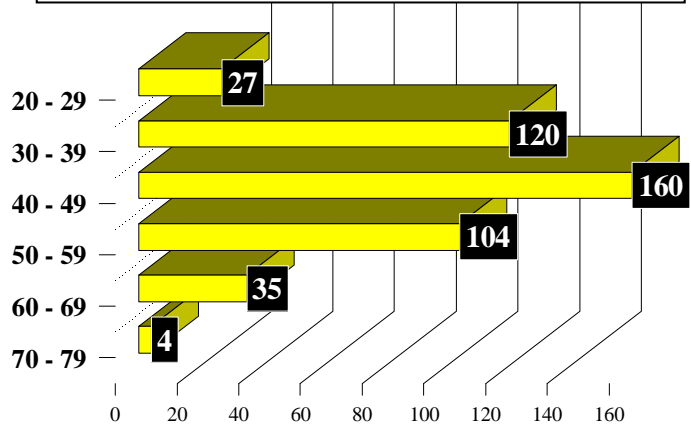
Breast Cancer and Malpractice

- #1 in malpractice suits filed
- #2 overall in paid indemnity (Neurologically impaired newborns #1)
- #1 adult indemnity dollars paid
- Average suit paid \$438,047 (1995 - 2002)
- 41% of all claims received compensation

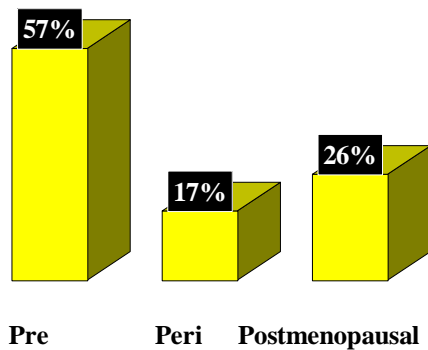
Compensation by Age:

20 - 29 years	\$603,537
30 - 39 years	\$400,411
40 - 49 years	\$508,606
50 - 59 years	\$293,025
60 - 69 years	\$301,855
70 - 79 years	\$91,250

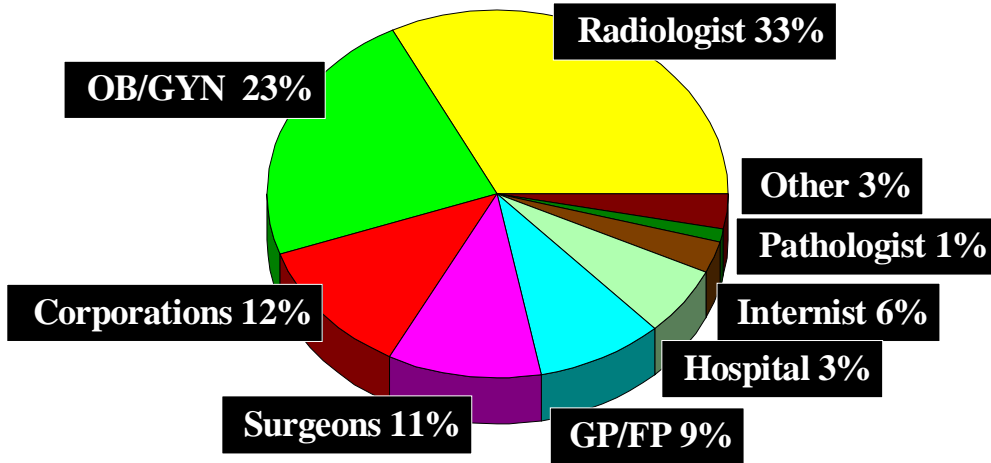
450 Claimants Percentage by Age in Study



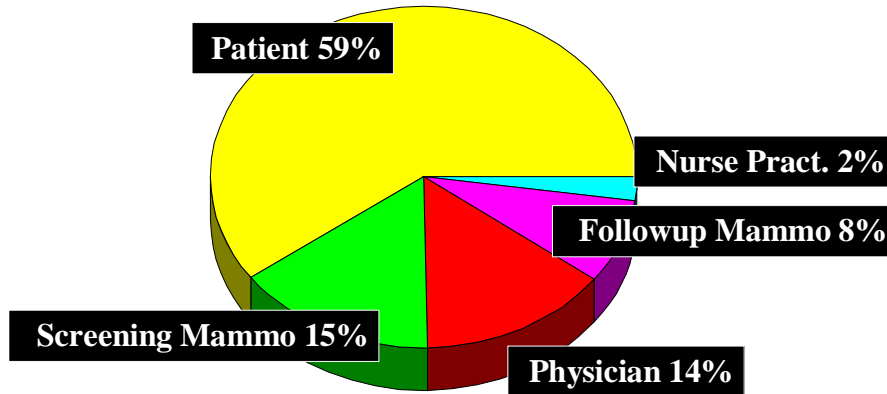
Menopausal State



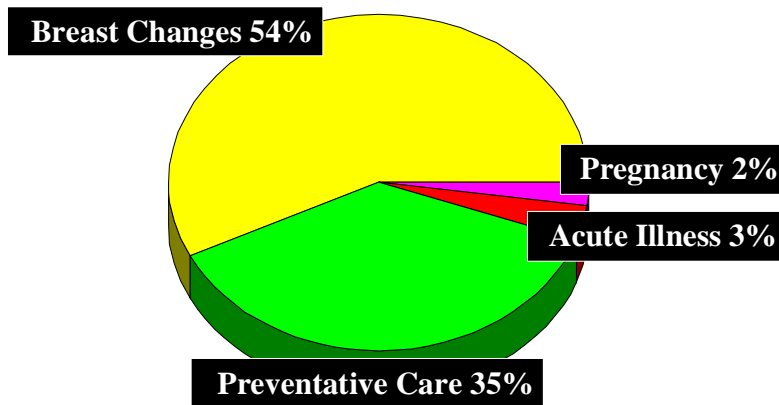
Suits by Specialty



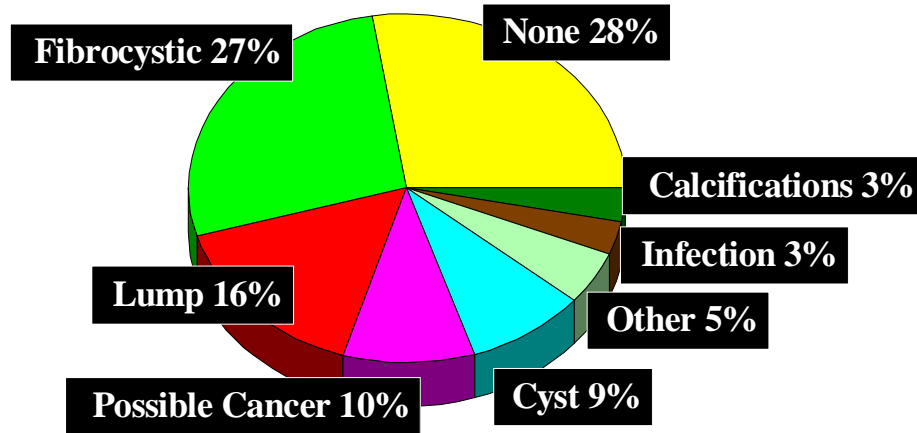
Breast Abnormality Discovered By:



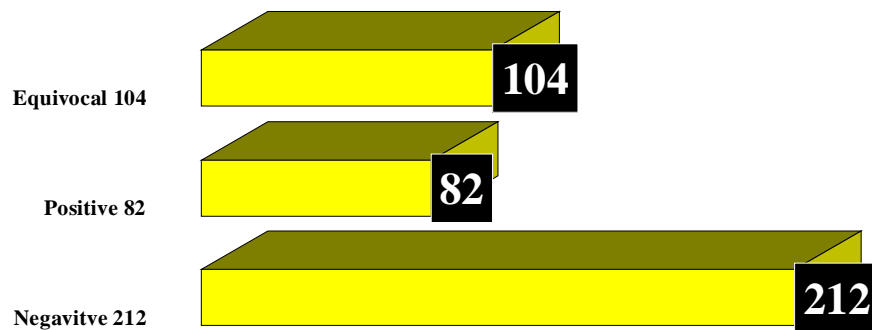
Reason for Finding Abnormality



Physician Initial Diagnosis



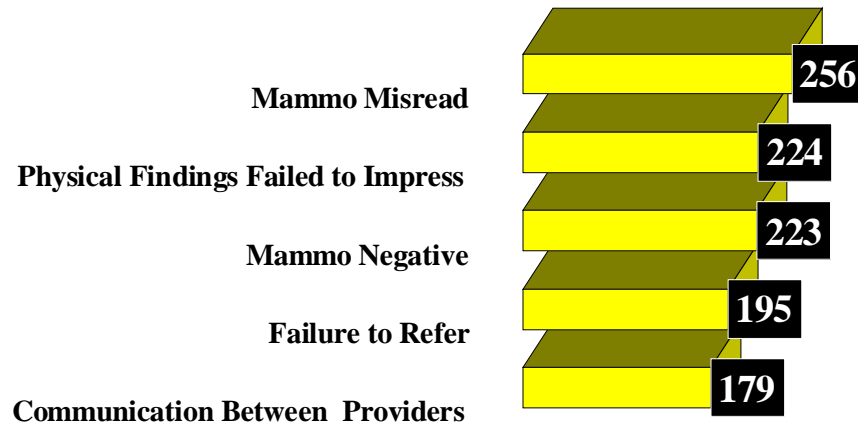
398 Initial Mammograms Findings



Physical Findings During Physical Exam

- Palpable mass 59%
- Pain 17%
- Skin Dimpling 12%
- Exam not performed 9%
- Nipple retraction 6%
- Nipple discharge 5%
- Palpable nodes 5%
- Asymmetrical breasts 5%
- Skin discoloration 3%

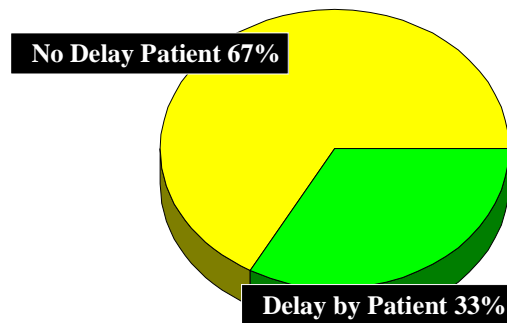
Most Common Physicians Issues in Malpractice Suits



Most Common Specialty Causes

- Radiologists
 - Mammogram misread: 75%
- OB/GYNs
 - Physical findings failed to impress: 44%
 - Failure to refer to specialist for biopsy: 41%
- General and Family Practice
 - Physical findings failed to impress: 54%
 - Failure to refer to specialist for biopsy: 38%

Delay Issues by Patient



What Did We Learn from Malpractice Studies?

- Delay of diagnosis most prominent in pre-and perimenopausal women. Why?
 - Considered as less-likely candidates for breast cancer
 - Denser breasts tissue makes breast cancer more difficult to detect

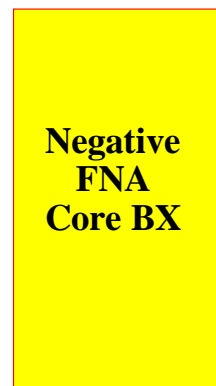
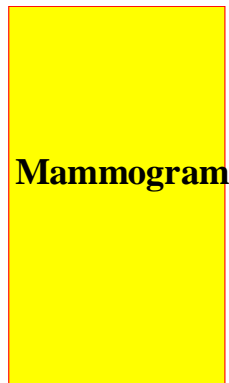
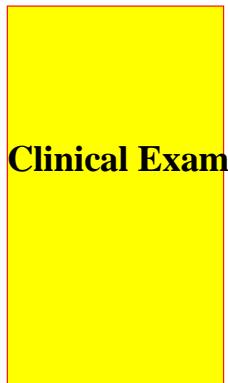
Any age woman can have breast cancer.

- 68% of women under age of 50
- 33% were under 40
- 78% of indemnity paid to women under 50

Any woman of any age must be fully screened with clinical exam, mammography, if necessary, ultrasound and biopsy. All exams must correlate with findings.

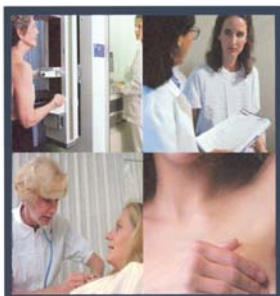
- Women found 59% of changes
- Mammography (398 total) 212 were negative, 104 ambiguous, and 82 positive

Listen attentively and proceed with clinical exam, mammogram, and other diagnostic test until disease ruled out. Do not depend on a negative mammogram alone.



All findings from clinical exam, mammogram, ultrasound or negative minimally invasive biopsy must correlate or proceed to open biopsy.

- Radiologist should have special training in mammography and monitored for outcomes in readings
- Primary care physicians should
 - Have review of signs and symptoms of breast cancer and clinical breast exam
 - Easy referral to specialist (breast center) who will case manage patient through diagnosis



All numbers and percentages taken from Physician Insurers Association of America (PIAA) 2002 Study. Order Copies:
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