

First Place- Heather Myers

Prostate Brachytherapy

Abstract

Prostate cancer continues to be one of the leading cancers in men. Because of the improved technology in radiology, brachytherapy is an astonishing option for patients. Brachytherapy is a form of radiation therapy. The ionizing radiation is surgically inserted inside or around the prostate gland to try to kill the tumor without removal of the prostate or radiating the patient using external beam radiation. Researching brachytherapy showed many advantages and a promise of great success for years to come.

Second Place- Maggie Gross

So, What's the Issue with Breast Tissue?

An inside look at the new USPTF recommendations for ages 40-49

Abstract

The recent report from the U.S. Preventive Task Force has created upset in the medical field. The report has changed the recommendations for the use of mammography screening. The mammogram has been a reliable tool in diagnosing breast cancer. When breast cancer is caught early the survival rate has been proven to be higher. The reasons the USPTF has made a change in recommendations and the data supporting are outlined. Response to the new changes, challenges the USPTF decision with the use of the same data. The ultimate effect of the USPTF recommendations is the reduction in cost at the expense of increased deaths from breast cancer.

Third Place – Nicole Stalcup

What Will Patients Choose: Virtual or Optical?

Abstract

The purpose of this research was to demonstrate how virtual colonoscopies are being performed instead of optical colonoscopies. Research shows that this non-invasive procedure, evaluates the inside of the large intestine and any possible extracolonic abnormalities within the abdomen and pelvic region utilizing CT. Studies have shown that the use of computer-aided detection (CAD) technology can manipulate CT images to mimic what the gastrointestinal physician would see when performing an optical colonoscopy. Statistics demonstrate that patients receiving virtual colonoscopies can save between \$266 and \$449 respectively. In conclusion, for all the aforementioned reasons a virtual colonoscopy is a cost effective, patient friendly and efficacious procedure.