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IN BRIEF

HEALTH CARE

Cancer study focuses on Halifax firm's methods

Breast screening technology developed by a Halifax firm is highlighted in a cancer risk study published this week in the British Journal of Radiology.

Densitas Inc. said Friday the research by a team from the Nova Scotia health authority concluded that breast density data is a better way to predict cancer risk than traditional factors.

The study involved the company's DM-Research tool. The technology collects breast density data from mammographies.

"Digital imaging generates massive quantities of valuable information, but much of it is overlooked," Dr. Sian Iles, section head of breast imaging at the IWK

Health Centre in Halifax, said in a news release.

"We wanted to explore whether precise and standardized breast density assessments using a fully automated algorithm would fare well in determining breast cancer risk in comparison with traditional risk factors."

Those traditional factors include age, family history and menopausal status.

Densitas CEO Mohamed Abdoell said the technology allows research to use previously collected data instead of potentially having to wait years to see if patients develop breast cancer.