Management of high risk women: considering the time-frame.

Brief Synopsis:

Present guidelines for interventions that are intended to reduce the risk of breast cancer diagnosis (through medicine or surgery) or the risk of breast cancer death (through early detection) are based on model-derived risk estimates. These are usually presented as short-term risk (often over 5 years) and lifetime risk (usually to age 85 or 90). Imaging guidelines in particular, are directed to lifetime risk estimates. However, risk estimation over a span of several decades is difficult to validate and for imaging in particular, does not take into account the length of lead time gained through advanced imaging. The time frame that is most appropriate for recommendations regarding imaging and prevention is therefore different, and should be considered in research design, in guideline documents, and in practice.