

## **A SCREENING CASE; BALIKESİR BREAST CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM**

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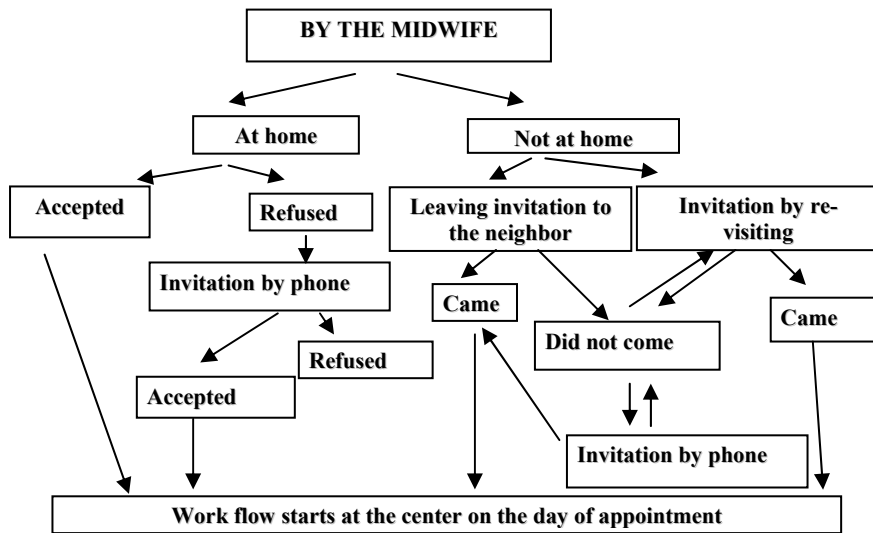
Balıkesir KETEM which is one of the 11 Cancer Early Diagnosis and Screening Centers, established by Ministry of Health, Department of Cancer Control in 2003 within the scope of an EU supported project, conducted a systematic and periodical community-based breast cancer screening. This screening covers a period reiterating by intervals of 2 years.

The first stage of the screening was conducted between the dates September 15, 2004 and January 1, 2006. The second stage started on September 15, 2006 and still continues. Our aim is to decrease the mortality rate associated with breast cancer in Balıkesir.

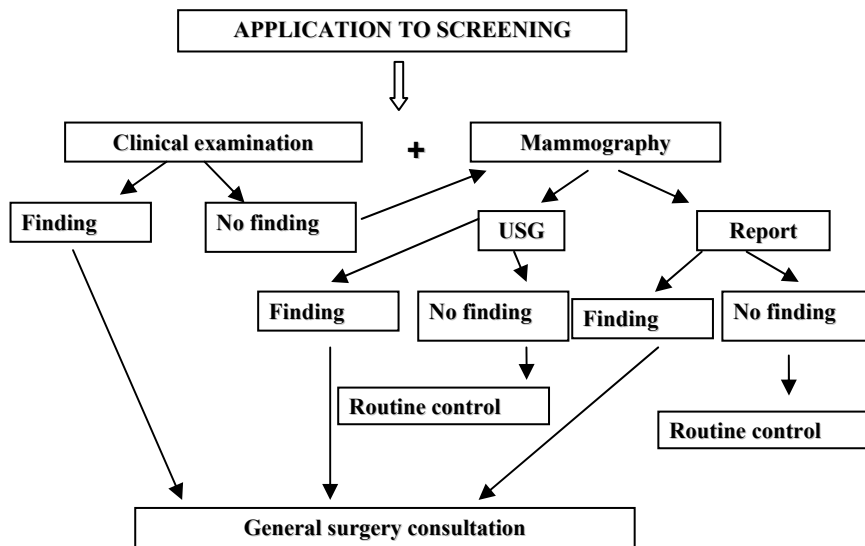
Our method of study:

- Determining the women at ages 50-69 among the target population
- Giving training on breast self examination (KKMM) to each women and ensuring the implementation of the breast examinations
- Conducting mammography shots of each women
- Carrying out medio lateral oblique (MLO) and cranio caudal (CC) bi-directional mammography shots
- Carrying out mammography evaluations by two radiologists with the method of double-reading
- Determining the screening interval as 2 years is confirmed as the method.

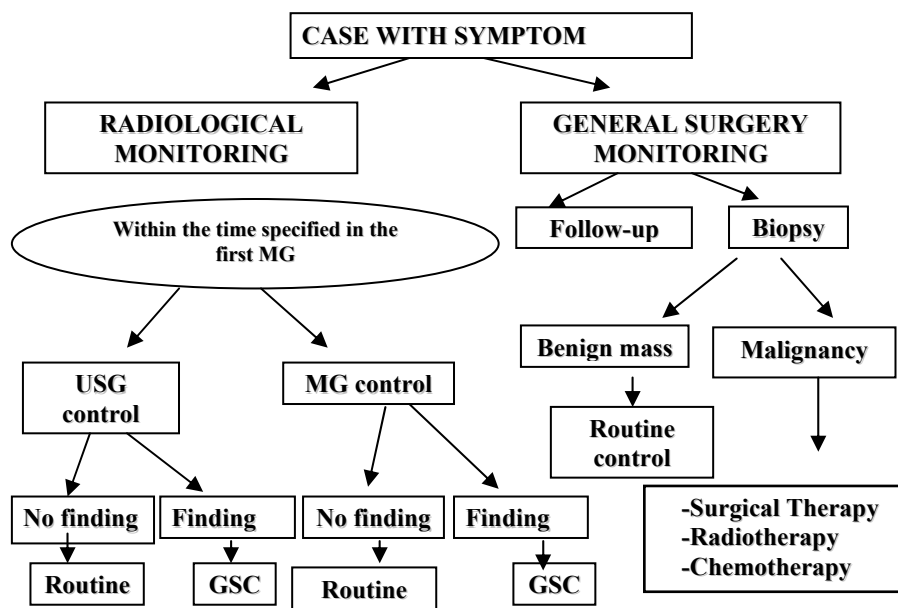
OUR INVITATION FLOW CHART;



OUR MEDICAL FLOW CHART;



## OUR MONITORING FLOW CHART;



## OUR FINDINGS;

In the first stage of the screening, 1435 women out of 1933 women which was the target population (74.2 %) participated to the screening. Concerning the mammography examinations of the subject women, 1226 were evaluated as age-consistent breast tissues. General Surgical consultation for 209 cases and breast USG for 176 cases (12.3 %) were requested. Biopsy was offered for 38 cases. 14 women refused biopsy. Breast cancer diagnosis was defined for 2 patients among the 24, for whom biopsy was held (0.0139 %).

In the second stage of the screening, biopsy was offered for 21 cases out of 750, screening of whom were completed by February, 2007. Biopsy was held for 6 of them. Breast cancer diagnosis was defined for 2 cases.

## CONCLUSION;

As a result of this screening carried out with the approval of the Directorate of the Department of Cancer Control working under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey;

- Awareness increase was achieved by giving training on breast cancer examination and breast self examination to each women participating in the screening.

- Among the target population, two women in the first stage and as of the end of February, two women in the second stage started on September, 2006 were defined to have early cancer and were directed towards treatment.

For the success of a breast cancer screening, it is necessary that:

- The records of Health Care Center household registry forms (ETF) be proper and reliable

- General Surgery, Radiology, Pathology Specialists working in the center that conducts the screening and Practitioners, Nurses, Midwives, and Radiology Technicians working at the Center have a certain degree of experience and knowledge and that they work together harmoniously

- In-service trainings of the staff be continuous

- Payment difficulties on part of Social Security institutions concerning screening programs be overcome.

After receiving the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the following stages of our study and the results of breast screenings conducted by other centers, the applicability of breast cancer screening programs in Turkey shall be seen and discussed.