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1 **The potential utility of abbreviated breast MRI (FAST MRI)**  
2 **as a tool for breast cancer screening: a systematic review**  
3 **and meta-analysis**

4 Geach R, Jones LI, Harding SA, Marshall A, Taylor-Phillips S, McKeown-Keegan S, Dunn JA.

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7 **Abstract**

8 A systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted to synthesise published evidence  
9 comparing abbreviated protocol (AP) MRI to full protocol breast MRI (FP) to detect breast  
10 cancer in a screening setting. The review focuses on the first post contrast subtracted (FAST)  
11 protocol and compares indices of diagnostic accuracy and scan acquisition and reporting  
12 times. A systematic search for articles in Medline, Embase and Cochrane databases was  
13 undertaken. Cohort studies without enrichment were included if they presented data on  
14 accuracy of AP MRI in a screening setting for any level of risk (population, moderate and  
15 high risk). Level of evidence was assessed using the Grading of Recommendations  
16 Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach. A meta-analysis for AP MRI,  
17 with FP and histology from FP positive cases as reference standard was conducted using a  
18 bivariate random effects model. An additional meta-analysis was performed with follow up to  
19 symptomatic detection added to the FP reference standard. In addition, the review covers  
20 published evidence comparing AP MRI with mammographic modalities (digital  
21 mammography, tomosynthesis and contrast enhanced spectral mammography).  
22 Our search retrieved 23 articles, of which five studies (6 articles) were included, with a total  
23 of 2,763 women (3,251 screening rounds). The GRADE assessment rated the overall level of  
24 evidence as very low, in particular because the reference standard was interpreted with  
25 knowledge of the index test and because biopsy was not obtained for AP positives. The  
26 overall sensitivity for AP MRI, with FP (and histology for FP positives) as reference  
27 standard, was estimated as 94.8% (95% CI 85.5-98.2) and the specificity as 94.6% (95% CI  
28 91.5-96.6), which gave an area under the receiver operator curve of 97.5. Three published  
29 studies, including 1,450 women (1,613 screening rounds), presented follow up data that  
30 allowed a comparison between AP and FP MRI. The sensitivities for AP did not significantly  
31 differ from those for FP (p=0.83) nor did the specificities (p=0.37).

32 There is a very low level of evidence that suggests AP MRI could be an accurate test for  
33 breast cancer screening. High quality research is required with follow up to interval cancer to  
34 determine the effect its use could have on clinical outcome.

35 **Key words:** Breast cancer, Screening, Breast MRI, Abbreviated MRI, FAST MRI

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40 Highlights

- 41• Abbreviated breast MRI (abMRI) detects cancer in mammography negative cases
- 42• Sensitivity and specificity of abMRI compared to full protocol MRI were both 95%
- 43• Accuracy of abMRI and fpMRI may be similar but evidence quality is very low
- 44• Research is needed to compare outcomes from abMRI to those of standard screening

## 45 Introduction

46 Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is the most sensitive imaging modality for the detection  
47 of breast cancer<sup>1,2</sup>, and can find small cancers of 5mm and smaller<sup>3-5</sup>. As a screening tool for  
48 breast cancer in the very high risk population (>30% lifetime risk) it increases both early  
49 cancer detection and metastases-free survival<sup>6</sup> and is the standard of care for these women in  
50 the UK and internationally. Nevertheless, breast MRI is a high cost investigation, secondary  
51 to its long scan acquisition time and the time taken for image interpretation. This limits its  
52 cost effectiveness for use as a screening tool in other populations of women with lower breast  
53 cancer prevalence, despite evidence that it could provide for them increased early cancer  
54 detection and reduced interval cancer rate<sup>7,8</sup>. In addition, the length of time spent inside the  
55 MRI scanner during a breast MRI examination has been shown to be a significant source of  
56 discomfort in over a third of women undergoing the investigation<sup>9,10</sup> and so a reduction in the  
57 scan time would potentially improve the screening clients' experience.

58 In 2014 Kuhl et al. introduced the concept of an abbreviated protocol for breast MRI  
59 (abMRI): First post contrast Acquisition SubTracted (FAST) protocol<sup>11</sup>. This proof of  
60 concept study investigated whether a single pre and post contrast acquisition with derived  
61 images (FAST) and maximum-intensity projection (MIP) was suitable as an alternative to the  
62 full protocol (fpMRI) for screening. Their published results were promising with the MRI  
63 acquisition time reduced to just 3 minutes and an image interpretation time of <30 seconds  
64 whilst diagnostic accuracy was maintained, equivalent to the fpMRI. As a consequence of  
65 Kuhl's original research, several authors have published articles exploring the utilisation of  
66 an abMRI for detecting breast cancer<sup>12-20</sup>, including several variations of the original FAST  
67 format in an attempt to increase the specificity. These variations include the addition of T2

68 sequences and diffusion weighted imaging and a number of reviews have been written about  
69 the technique<sup>21-24</sup>.

70 Parallel to Kuhl's development of the FAST protocol abMRI for use in breast screening,  
71 Mann et al. suggested that an "ultrafast" abMRI protocol, originally described by Hermann et  
72 al. in 2011<sup>25</sup>, utilising a time resolved magnetic resonance angiography technique (Time-  
73 resolved angiography With Stochastic Trajectories (TWIST)) that provided additional kinetic  
74 information, could be used for the same indication<sup>26</sup>. They concluded that calculating the  
75 maximum slope of the relative enhancement-versus-time curve obtained from the TWIST  
76 sequences allowed discrimination of benign and malignant breast lesions with high accuracy.  
77 This early study on Ultrafast MRI has been supported by subsequent studies that confirm that  
78 a steep slope and a short time to enhancement both correlate with malignancy<sup>27-31</sup>.

79 With the advent of personalised screening, women are likely to be stratified according to their  
80 level of risk to different screening regimes/imaging modalities with the potential to increase  
81 the number of women offered a screening modality more sensitive than mammography<sup>32</sup>.

82 Published studies of abMRI techniques have used expert MRI readers for interpretation, and  
83 this has been suggested as a potential barrier to expansion of the technique for personalised  
84 screening with abMRI<sup>24</sup>. However, with a single day's standardised training<sup>33</sup> to interpret the  
85 simplest of the abMRI techniques (FAST MRI), an early study suggests that professionals  
86 who are already competent at reading mammograms can achieve similar levels of accuracy of  
87 interpretation of abMRI to that of expert breast MRI readers<sup>34</sup>. If these results should be  
88 validated in subsequent studies<sup>35</sup>, limitation to expansion of the role of abMRI (FAST  
89 protocol) on the grounds of workforce feasibility will have been reduced.

90 Although individual studies of abMRI have suggested it might offer a diagnostic accuracy  
91 similar to fpMRI with acquisition and reporting times nearer to those of mammography, there

92 has been little direct comparison of abMRI with mammography reported in the literature. In  
93 order to decide whether abMRI could replace fpMRI for high risk population screening, we  
94 need to understand how it compares in diagnostic accuracy. There is also a potential role for  
95 abMRI to replace mammograms for moderate risk screening although for this to be cost  
96 effective its diagnostic accuracy would need to be demonstrably sufficiently greater than that  
97 of mammograms to justify its higher cost.

98 The primary objective of this systematic review was to assimilate published evidence to  
99 compare the diagnostic accuracy of breast cancer detection of abMRI (that includes the FAST  
100 protocol) with that of fpMRI in the screening setting.

101 The secondary objectives were:

102- To compare the abMRI and fpMRI scanning acquisition and reporting times

103- To compare the diagnostic accuracy of abMRI with that of any mammographic modality  
104 (standard digital mammography, digital breast tomosynthesis and contrast enhanced spectral  
105 mammography).

106-

## 107 Materials and methods

108 The systematic review and meta-analysis were conducted in accordance with the Preferred  
109 Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidance<sup>36</sup>.

### 110 Search strategy

111 A systematic literature search for relevant articles was performed in November 2019. The  
112 keywords utilised in the literature search and an example database search are included in

113 **Appendix 1.** The searches were performed using Cochrane Central Register of Controlled  
114 Trial, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Embase, Medline. The search was limited  
115 to articles published in the English language after the year 2000. De-duplication was  
116 performed in Endnote and then title and abstract screening was performed manually by a  
117 single author to identify eligible articles. Full text screening was performed by 2 authors.

118 Eligibility criteria:

119 Studies were included in the systematic review and meta-analysis if they fulfilled the  
120 following inclusion criteria:

121 1) Studies investigated the diagnostic accuracy of an abMRI that included the FAST  
122 sequence<sup>11</sup>.

123 2) Studies included a comparison with an appropriate reference standard, either the  
124 fpMRI or appropriate follow up/histological analysis.

125 3) Studies were performed in the screening setting

126 Screening studies of women at high risk, moderate risk, population risk and at mixed risk of  
127 developing breast cancer were included. Cross-sectional and cohort studies, including  
128 retrospective cohort studies were included but case control studies and cohorts which were  
129 enriched with a greater proportion of cancer cases were excluded.

130 Quality assessment

131 The quality appraisal tools used in this review were selected to be relevant to diagnostic test  
132 studies<sup>37,38</sup>. Two authors performed data extraction and quality assessment, initially this was  
133 performed by each author independently and any discrepancies were discussed, and a

134 consensus opinion was made in discussion with a third author. Judgements were made on the  
135 level of evidence provided using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment,  
136 Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach for diagnostic tests and strategies<sup>39-42</sup>  
137 including the assessment of risk of bias, directness of evidence and of consistency and  
138 precision of results.

139 Data extraction

140 Included studies were summarised to detail: number of women, study population, number of  
141 scans, format of the abMRI, reference standard used, sensitivity, specificity, PPV and NPV  
142 for the abMRI and also for the fpMRI if there was sufficient follow up, time to read abMRI  
143 and fpMRI, scan acquisition time, sources of bias.

144 Meta-analysis

145 A meta-analysis of accuracy of abMRI was performed for the similar studies. The reference  
146 standard was fpMRI results with histology for fpMRI positives. Forest plots of the  
147 sensitivities and specificities were constructed. To account for the dependency between the  
148 sensitivity and specificity, a bivariate random effect model<sup>43</sup> was fitted using the R package  
149 “mada” for performing meta-analyses of diagnostic accuracy<sup>44</sup> to obtain the pooled  
150 sensitivity and specificity estimates and associated 95% confidence intervals (95% CI). The  
151 bivariate random effect model was also used to assess any differences in the sensitivity and  
152 specificity between the studies with only high risk patients and those with population and  
153 moderate risk patients. Similar methodology was used to conduct a meta-analysis comparing  
154 abMRI with fpMRI for studies with additional follow-up.

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156

## 157 Results

158 The results of the literature search are illustrated as a PRISMA flowchart in **Figure 1**<sup>45</sup>. 7  
159 articles (6 studies) met the selection criteria for inclusion in the review<sup>11,46-51</sup>; One study was  
160 reported in two articles<sup>48,49</sup>. **Table 1** summarises the participant demographic of the 7 articles.  
161 The average age of the participants included in the studies ranged from 44.3 years<sup>51</sup> to 54.2  
162 years<sup>11</sup>.

163 **Table 2** shows the quality assessment results for the 7 included articles. All 7 fulfilled the  
164 inclusion quality criteria for validity and applicability except that none of the studies  
165 validated the tool (abMRI) within the study. However, it could be considered that each study  
166 provided some validity for the others. **Table 3** demonstrates the MRI specifications of the  
167 abMRI scans used in the studies. The table shows variation in the protocols used by the  
168 different studies, including, for example, that results from both 1.5T and 3T scanners were  
169 included in three studies<sup>47,50,51</sup>, 1.5T alone was used in one study<sup>11</sup> and 3T alone in one study  
170 (two articles)<sup>48,49</sup> and for one study the strength of magnet was not specified<sup>46</sup>.

### 171 Study population

172 The included studies varied in study population (**Table 1**). Three of the studies included  
173 solely women described as being at “high risk” of developing breast cancer<sup>46,47,51</sup>. These 3  
174 studies described multiple reasons for inclusion of a participant in their study under the  
175 heading of high risk, including BRCA gene mutation, family history, personal past history of  
176 breast cancer and previous atypical histology on biopsy. However, in none of these studies  
177 was the percentage lifetime or ten-year risk defined. Both articles by Chen et al focused on

178 women who had dense breasts on mammography but were otherwise at population risk<sup>48,49</sup>,  
179 although the mechanism for classification of density was not defined in either article. Choi et  
180 al. included women with a personal past history of breast cancer as their study population<sup>50</sup>,  
181 and the study population in Kuhl's study was women of mixed risk, above population risk  
182 (mild, moderate and high) including women with family history, women with personal past  
183 history of breast cancer and those with no other risk factor than dense breasts<sup>11</sup>.

#### 184 Study design

185 In one study<sup>11</sup> all data was acquired prospectively, while for the other 5 studies<sup>46-51</sup> images  
186 from consecutive screening examinations were identified retrospectively and then re-  
187 interpreted prospectively.

#### 188 Reading protocol

189 AbMRIs and fpMRIs were single reported by radiologists who were expert in breast MRI  
190 interpretation in 5 studies<sup>11,46,47,50,51</sup>. In contrast, in both articles by Chen et al.<sup>48,49</sup> both the  
191 abMRIs and fpMRIs were double reported, the reporting performed independently by two  
192 radiologists, both expert in breast MRI interpretation, with any discordant interpretations  
193 being arbitrated by an experienced third, arbitrating reader. All studies had a paired design,  
194 with each reader examining both abMRI and fpMRI for a series of women.

195 Chen's two articles<sup>48,49</sup> describe an attempt to reduce recall bias by reporting the abMRI and  
196 fpMRI in two separate sessions, at least one month apart, and randomising the order of the  
197 cases presented to the readers at each session. Four studies<sup>11,46,47,51</sup> describe sequential  
198 reading of the two scans for each case with readers interpreting the abMRI first and then

199 fpMRI immediately afterwards. In one study only an abMRI, and no fpMRI was acquired<sup>50</sup>  
200 (reference standard = histology or follow up).

201 Four articles (3 studies) failed to state whether mammograms were available to readers  
202 during abMRI and fpMRI interpretation<sup>46,48,49,51</sup>. In 2 studies mammograms were available to  
203 readers reading both abMRI and fpMRI<sup>47,50</sup> and in one study they were not available to  
204 readers at all<sup>11</sup>.

205 Diagnostic accuracy

206 Six of 7 articles compared abMRI results with fpMRI (including histology of fpMRI positive  
207 cases) as reference standard. However, 3 of these 6 articles provided no follow up data<sup>46,49,51</sup>,  
208 one provided single year follow up data for a subset of scans only<sup>47</sup> and two provided 2 years  
209 follow up data<sup>11,48</sup>. In addition, in all 6 articles, histology was performed for fpMRI positive  
210 scans but not for abMRI positive scans (unless there was concordance). A comparative  
211 accuracy assessment of abMRI with fpMRI was therefore not possible. Instead an analysis  
212 was performed of the accuracy of abMRI using fpMRI and histology of fpMRI positives as  
213 reference standard.

214 One study reported in 2 papers<sup>48,49</sup>. Therefore, a total of 3,251 breast MRI scans were  
215 performed in 5 studies<sup>11,46,47,49,51</sup>, and detected a total of 58 cancers by fpMRI (43/58 invasive  
216 (73.6%))(cancer detection rate = 17.8/1000). All but one of the 58 cancers were detected by  
217 abMRI (57/58 = 98%). It was not specified whether the cancer missed by abMRI was  
218 invasive or not. The diagnostic accuracy data for the 5 studies are summarised in **Table 4**.  
219 The sensitivity for the abMRI in comparison with the fpMRI (and histology of fpMRI  
220 positive scans) is 100% for all but one study (Chen et al 93.8%)<sup>49</sup>. Specificity for the abMRI  
221 ranged from 88.3% to 97.0% of that achieved by the fpMRI.

222 Only one study<sup>50</sup> reported rates for abMRI of early call to abMRI at 6 months (76/799  
223 (9.5%)), recall rate (19/799 (2.4%)) and biopsy rate 17/799 (2%) for a cancer detection rate  
224 by abMRI of 15/1000 women screened (12/799).

225 Meta-analysis

226 Meta-analysis was performed of the accuracy of abMRI on the 5 similar studies which used  
227 fpMRI (and histology of fpMRI positives) as reference standard<sup>11,46,47,49,51</sup>, interpretable as  
228 the abMRI's exact deficiencies versus fpMRI (**Figure 2**). The overall sensitivity was  
229 estimated as 94.8% (95% CI 85.5-98.2) and the specificity as 94.6% (95% CI 91.5-96.6) for  
230 the abMRI (**Figure 2**). The sensitivities did not significantly differ between the studies that  
231 involved high risk patients and those that did not (p=0.98) nor the specificities (p=0.58).

232 Comparison of abMRI with full protocol (fpMRI)

233 Three studies had additional follow up (1 or 2 years)<sup>11,47,48</sup> that allowed the comparison of  
234 abMRI with fpMRI; only one of these studies identified any interval cancers<sup>47</sup>. Two interval  
235 cancers were missed by both the abMRI and fpMRI<sup>47</sup>. The data are summarised in **Table 5**.  
236 The overall sensitivity over these 3 studies was estimated as 92.1% (95% CI 68.6-98.4) and  
237 the specificity as 93.8% (95% CI 85.4-97.5) for the abMRI compared to an overall sensitivity  
238 of 91.4% (95% CI 68.1-98.1) and specificity of 96.0% (95% CI 93.4-97.7) for the fpMRI  
239 (**Figure 3**). The sensitivities for abMRI did not significantly differ from those for fpMRI  
240 (p=0.83) nor did the specificities (p=0.37).

241 Judgements made on level of evidence for studies included in the meta-analysis

242 The GRADE approach<sup>39-42</sup> to quality assessment was applied to the 5 studies that used  
243 fpMRI, with histology for fpMRI positives, as reference standard. Assessment of different

244 aspects of the study, including design, risk of bias, indirectness, inconsistency, imprecision  
245 and quality of evidence yielded assessments of evidence quality ranging from High through  
246 Moderate and Low to Very Low (**Table 6**). The main sources of bias identified were that the  
247 index tests were not undertaken independently, that readers had knowledge of the index test  
248 when interpreting the reference standard and that only fpMRI positive cases were biopsied so  
249 that the reference standard differed by index test. In addition, there was lack of clarity in the  
250 definition of population studied and imprecision, seen as large confidence intervals  
251 demonstrated for sensitivity. The short or absent follow up of cases presented by studies  
252 further lowered the overall evidence quality. The confidence we can have in the comparative  
253 diagnostic accuracy results, and therefore our overall level of certainty that abMRI and  
254 fpMRI have a similar level of diagnostic accuracy, was assessed as very low.

255 Time taken to acquire and read the scans

256 The times taken to acquire and to interpret the abMRI and fpMRI protocols are summarised  
257 in **Table 7**. For all 3 studies<sup>11,46,47</sup> that compared acquisition times of abMRI with fpMRI, the  
258 acquisition time for abMRI (range: 180-264 seconds) was consistently less than that for  
259 fpMRI (1024-1440). For all 3 studies<sup>46,47,49</sup> that compared interpretation times of abMRI with  
260 fpMRI, the average interpretation time for the abMRI (range: 42-144 seconds) was  
261 consistently less than that for fpMRI (192-396).

262 Grade and stage of cancers detected

263 Four articles included information on grade of cancers detected<sup>11,46-48</sup> (**Table 8a**) and 4  
264 articles included full or partial information on stage of cancers detected<sup>11,47,48,50</sup> (**Table 8**). In  
265 all studies the majority of cancers were invasive (48/68 (71%))(range within studies 58-86%).  
266 Across the studies that reported grade, only a small proportion of invasive cancers were

267 Grade 1 (4/34 (12%)), and two thirds of in situ cases detected were high grade DCIS (8/12  
268 (67%)). Across the studies that reported stage or size, the majority of invasive cancers  
269 detected were small, measuring less than or equal to 1cm diameter (26/51 (51%)) and no  
270 invasive cancers measured greater than 2cm diameter.

271 Comparison of abMRI with mammography

272 No articles were identified that directly compared abMRI with mammographic modalities  
273 (digital mammography, digital breast tomosynthesis and contrast enhanced spectral  
274 mammography). However, of the studies included in this systematic review, three  
275 studies<sup>11,47,49</sup> documented a recent normal screening mammogram as an inclusion criterion  
276 for their participants. Therefore, all cancers identified by abMRI in these three studies were  
277 not identified by mammography. The additional cancer yield (invasive and non-invasive  
278 disease) over mammography achieved by the abMRI in these three articles was stated as  
279 18.15/1000 women screened<sup>11</sup>, and 13.3/1000<sup>47</sup>, and calculated from the study's published  
280 figures as 31.4/1000 (15/478)<sup>49</sup>. However, in none of these articles was the original cancer  
281 detection rate by mammography presented for comparison.

282

283 Discussion

284 This systematic review has assimilated data from 6 studies, published as 7 articles, which  
285 compare the diagnostic accuracy, for breast cancer detection, of abMRI (protocols that  
286 include the FAST protocol) with acceptable reference standards, most commonly fpMRI, in a  
287 breast cancer screening setting. The original intention of the review had been to present the  
288 comparative accuracy of abMRI versus fpMRI, but to meet that need the ideal study would

289 refer for histology if either test recommended it and then follow up for a number of years. No  
290 studies with this ideal design were found, and therefore the results of our meta-analysis are  
291 interpretable as abMRI's exact deficiencies versus fpMRI and include 5 published studies.

292 The GRADE approach determined that the overall quality of the current evidence available  
293 about whether abMRI and fpMRI have a similar diagnostic accuracy is very low. Four studies  
294 were published with incomplete or no follow up data<sup>46-49,51</sup>, one study published one year's  
295 follow up data<sup>50</sup> and one study published two years' follow up<sup>11</sup>. Without sufficient follow up  
296 data, levels of absolute sensitivity for both abMRI and fpMRI are likely to be overestimated.  
297 For the smaller numbers of cases that had follow up data reported (within 3 studies that  
298 compared abMRI with fpMRI<sup>11,47,48</sup>) the risk of bias, inconsistency, imprecision, study design  
299 and flow is otherwise unchanged and the overall assessment of the quality of evidence  
300 remains very low.

301 Although, in all 7 articles the abMRI interpretation was appropriately blinded to the reference  
302 standard, during 4 studies<sup>11,46,47,51</sup>, interpretation of the fpMRI (reference standard) was  
303 performed directly after interpretation of the abMRI by the same reader. This study design  
304 includes a risk of bias, since the results of the fpMRI may have been influenced by  
305 knowledge of the abMRI and this could have unpredictable confounding effects. In addition  
306 to there being a mixture of study populations, the included studies either mixed or failed to  
307 specify prevalent or incident screening rounds. Together these factors resulted in a  
308 heterogenous pre-test probability both within and between studies. The small numbers of  
309 participants, and in particular the very small numbers of cancers detected during each study  
310 led to wide confidence intervals, particularly in the assessment of sensitivity, that have  
311 contributed to imprecision. These factors together necessitated the downgrading of the  
312 overall quality of evidence to very low by GRADE criteria.

313 Measured times to acquire and to interpret the two protocols were reported by 3 studies<sup>11,46,47</sup>  
314 and by 3 studies<sup>46-49</sup>, respectively, and consistently demonstrated shorter times required for  
315 both acquisition and interpretation of abMRI than for fpMRI. The large magnitude of  
316 reduction in time required to acquire and to report the abMRI in comparison with the fpMRI  
317 makes it more likely that these findings are real.

318 Although no articles were identified that directly compared abMRI, that include the FAST  
319 protocol, with mammographic modalities, indirect evidence from 3 studies suggested that  
320 abMRI is likely to perform better at diagnostic accuracy than mammograms<sup>11,47-49</sup>. Of note,  
321 one of these studies<sup>48,49</sup> included only women assessed as having dense breasts on  
322 mammography for whom we know the sensitivity for cancer detection by mammography is  
323 reduced<sup>52</sup>. The large magnitude of the apparently superior sensitivity for breast cancer of  
324 abMRI over mammography (demonstrated as additional cancer yield of 13.3/1000 -  
325 31.4/1000) in these 3 studies increases the likelihood that the finding is real and suggests that  
326 abMRI is likely to perform better at diagnostic accuracy of breast cancer detection than  
327 mammography in a screening setting. However, none of these studies investigated the effect  
328 on clinical outcomes of changing screening modality from mammograms to abMRI, and this  
329 review has identified this gap in our current knowledge.

330 This systematic review was performed as a comprehensive database search to minimise  
331 publication bias, and the review includes articles with a wide geographical distribution. A  
332 weakness of the review is that we took our data from the published articles and did not  
333 attempt to contact the authors of the articles to determine, for example, whether there was any  
334 overlap of data between articles. However, since our assessment of the level of current  
335 evidence is very low, it is unlikely that this assessment would have been altered if we had  
336 discovered further data overlap between any of our included studies.



337 Since this systematic review was performed, in November 2019, the results of a study  
338 comparing invasive cancer detection by abMRI directly with digital breast tomosynthesis in  
339 women with dense breasts have been published<sup>53</sup>. This prospective study, of 1444  
340 comparison scans (abMRI and digital breast tomosynthesis) with randomised order of scan  
341 performance, included the FAST protocol in the abMRI it studied and demonstrated a  
342 significantly higher rate of invasive breast cancer detection for abMRI (11.8/1000 abMRI and  
343 4.8/1000 digital breast tomosynthesis,  $p = 0.002$ ). These results are broadly in agreement with  
344 and provide some validity for the results of the current systematic review.

345 Further studies are needed if the diagnostic accuracy comparisons suggested by the existing  
346 evidence are to be validated. However, prior to any policy decisions being made about a  
347 potential change of screening modality to abMRI (either from fpMRI or from mammograms)  
348 the effect on clinical outcomes, cost effectiveness, acceptability and feasibility of any change  
349 will need to be determined within existing screening programmes. Only one study reported  
350 recall rates and biopsy rates for abMRI<sup>50</sup> and this leaves a crucial knowledge gap relating to  
351 workforce issues, feasibility and cost. Further research is needed to determine whether  
352 replacing either fpMRI or mammography with abMRI in a screening setting could improve  
353 clinical outcomes (such as achieving a reduction in interval cancer rates) for some women,  
354 and to determine which population of women it could benefit.

355

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525



## 526 Figure legends

527 Figure 1: PRISMA flow chart illustrating the results of the literature search

528

529 Figure 2: Forest plot for sensitivity and specificity for abbreviated protocol MRI (for each  
530 study that used full protocol MRI (FP) and histology of FP positives as reference standard)

531

532 Figure 3: Forest plot for sensitivity and specificity for each study with follow-up for  
533 abbreviated protocol (A) and full protocol (B)

534

## 535 Table legends and footnotes

536

537 Table 1: Demographics and inclusion and exclusion criteria of 7 included full-text articles

538 Footnotes: \*mean, \*\*median, #any additional risk over population risk including dense breasts

539 (23.7%)(defined as classified as 3 or 4 by 4<sup>th</sup> edition BIRADs criteria), and/or personal history (49.6%)

540 and/or family history (26.6%), ###level of risk not specified in article, <sup>o</sup>level of density not specified in

541 article

542

543 Table 2: Quality assessment for the 7 included full-text articles

544 Footnotes: \*for FP positive cases, \*\*for FP negative cases, #for AP positive cases, ###for AP negative

545 cases

546 <sup>1</sup> reference standard read immediately following index test (readers were not blinded to index test  
547 when reading reference standard)

548 <sup>2</sup> reference standard read at least 1 month after index test and the order of the cases presented to  
549 the reader was randomised to minimise recall bias

550 <sup>3</sup> different reference standard applied to index tests that were concordant with reference standard  
551 to those that were discordant (because abMRI positives that were discordant with fpMRI were not  
552 biopsied)

553

554 Table 3: Specifications of abbreviated protocols (AP) and of images available for AP  
555 interpretation

556 Footnotes: \*Time from commencement of contrast injection to acquisition of first post contrast  
557 dynamic scan

558

559 Table 4: Diagnostic accuracy of abbreviated breast MRI (abMRI) with full protocol (fpMRI)  
560 and histology of fpMRI positives as reference standard

561

562 Table 5: Diagnostic accuracy of abbreviated breast MRI (abMRI) with full protocol (fpMRI) for  
563 studies with follow-up data

564

565 Table 6: GRADE quality assessment of the level of evidence provided about diagnostic  
566 accuracy of abbreviated breast MRI (abMRI) versus full protocol (fpMRI), with reference  
567 standard biopsy in test positives on either test and follow up to symptomatic cancer  
568 detection  
569 Footnotes: A full quality assessment would include a row for each of the patient-important outcomes  
570 associated with each possible test result (TP, TN, FP, FN and inconclusive results) as well as test  
571 complications and costs. We have presented a simplified summary of the quality and judgement on level  
572 of evidence for the critical outcomes here.

573 <sup>a</sup>Judgement on level of evidence provided (High, Moderate, Low or Very Low) was defined along GRADE  
574 guidelines specifically for Diagnostic Test Accuracy studies and does not imply the level of evidence  
575 required to influence a change in practice, since diagnostic accuracy outcomes are only a surrogate for  
576 patient outcomes

577 <sup>1</sup>Relatively short term (1-2 years) or no follow up data was included in the studies enabling only  
578 comparison of abMRI deficiencies versus fpMRI with histology of fpMRI positives

579 <sup>2</sup>The terms high risk and dense breasts were not clearly defined (see Table 2)

580

581 Table 7: Time taken to acquire and to interpret abbreviated breast MRI (abMRI) and full  
582 protocol (fpMRI)

583

## 584 Appendix legends

585 Appendix 1: An example of literature search conducted, with details

586