

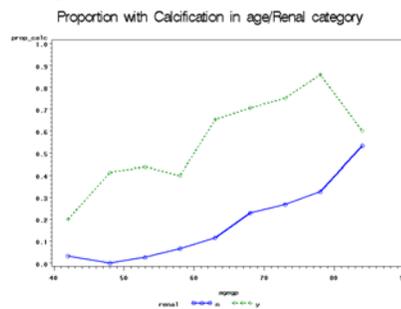
VASCULAR CALCIFICATIONS IDENTIFIED ON SCREENING MAMMOGRAPHY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE

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Chronic renal failure (CRF) is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in women over 40. We have previously identified that benign arterial calcifications (BAC) on a screening mammogram are significantly more prevalent in women with CAD, peripheral vascular disease, and diabetes. Since these processes have similar risk factors as CRF we hypothesized that a significant association exists between patients with a history of CRF and BAC identified on routine screening mammography.

Prior studies in our patient population indicate the baseline incidence of BAC in healthy women is 10.8%. We performed a retrospective review of women with known CRF from our Division of Nephrology and evaluated their screening mammograms for BAC.

There were 52/128 (41%) with CRF who had BAC present on their mammogram ($p < 0.0001$). Additionally, there was a significant age related increase of BAC, and regardless of age, women with CRF had a significantly higher association of BAC. The mean odds ratio of having CRF is 4.7 when BAC are present.



Our finding that BAC are increased in women with a history of CRF is significant because it indicates mammography may be a potential screening modality to identify women at risk for this disease. Additional studies determining the utility of screening mammography as a screening tool for other disease processes are currently underway at our institution.