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randomized, controlled Two County trial of mammography

The statistically significant mortality reduction in the rate had remained unchanged for the preceding 50 years. achievement, especially in light of the fact that the death decreased by almost 30% since 1990. This is a remarkable second leading cause of cancer deaths among women, has aware of the fact that the death rate from breast cancer, the mography," April, page 31). I suspect that few people are year ("Disagreement continues to dog screening mam- published in an issue of *Diagnostic Imaging* earlier this promulgated by such articles as Dr. Leonard Berlin's, 1984-85. The sudden decrease in cancer deaths that began to a sudden increase in annual breast cancer incidence in ing in the U.S. This initiation of nationwide screening led screening in Sweden¹ led to the onset of widespread screen-

I am unaware of any test that has been as completely studied or challenged and has so successfully met the chal- lenges as mammography screening. Three steps are required to prove that a screening test for breast cancer is efficacious. The first is that it must be able to detect breast cancers at a

has been ignored by opponents of screening).

(this result is also shown in Berry's computer model, but it of the decrease in deaths is due to mammography screening direct population data, have shown that at least two thirds deaths,³ studies in Sweden^{4,5} and the Netherlands,⁶ using improvements in therapy are responsible for the decline in gists, citing computer modeling, would like to claim that increase in earlier cancer detection.² Although oncolo- in 1990 is clearly related to the preceding, equally sudden, 1984-85. The sudden decrease in cancer deaths that began to a sudden increase in annual breast cancer incidence in ing in the U.S. This initiation of nationwide screening led screening in Sweden¹ led to the onset of widespread screen-

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KOPANS: WHY THE CRITICS of screening mammography are WRONG

cover story

