

## Section 5. Cancer Control for Women

Breast cancer is the highest cancer incidence rate for women in Japan. Approximately 35,000 women develop breast cancer and approximately 10,000 women die from it every year. These numbers trend to grow every year. In addition, the morbidity rate of breast cancer is increasing every year, and breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death with women aged 64 or younger.

Therefore, since FY 2004 mammography screening has been provided for use in breast cancer screening once every 2 years for women aged 40 or older by municipalities (including special wards, hereinafter the same). Mammography screening in municipalities is being promoted to facilitate the early detection of breast cancer, and will eventually contribute to reducing the morbidity rate. And hence emergency projects to establish mammography screening are also being implemented.

In order to improve the accuracy of nationwide breast cancer screening using mammograms, efforts are being made to support the introduction of a computer based diagnosis support system and education for screening professionals.

Furthermore, efforts are being made to promote dissemination and enlightenment on cancer screening for women-specific cancer in general that includes breast cancer and uterine cancer.