

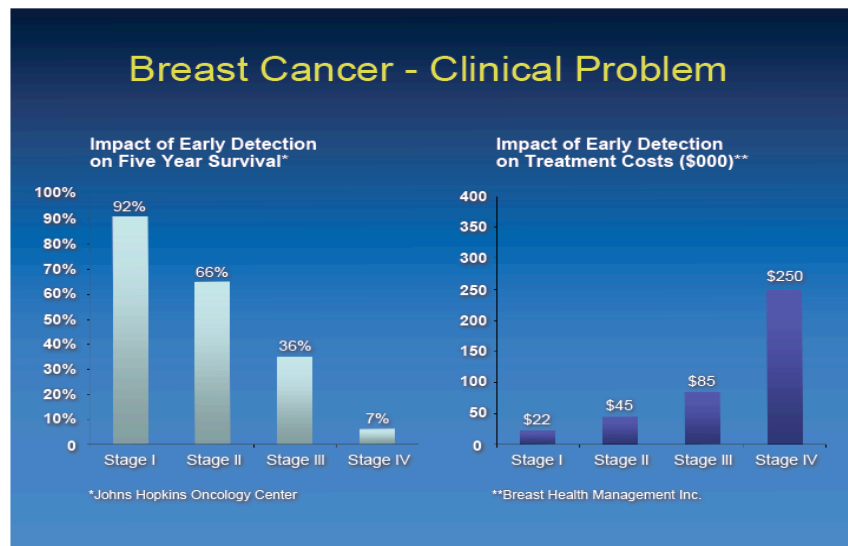
Figure 1 is a summary of the survival rate of breast cancer in relation to the stage at diagnosis. Even recognizing that under the best of circumstances, not all breast cancers can be detected early, the conclusion is obvious. The earlier breast cancer is detected the better the prognosis

Figure 1: 5 year survival rate based on stage at diagnosis:

Stage Detected	5 Year Survival Rate
0	100%
1	95%
2a	88%
2b	76%
3a	56%
3b	49%
4	16%

Not only does chance for survival decrease as the tumor grows, but so does the need for more aggressive therapy such as chemotherapy, more extensive surgery and the need for radiation therapy. Along with the need for more aggressive therapy is the associated cost of therapy as is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Cost of care per stage at Diagnosis:



This cost analysis is few years old and current cost 2-3 times higher than shown in figure 2, but the point remains the same. The earlier breast cancer is diagnosed the better the survival and the lower the costs.