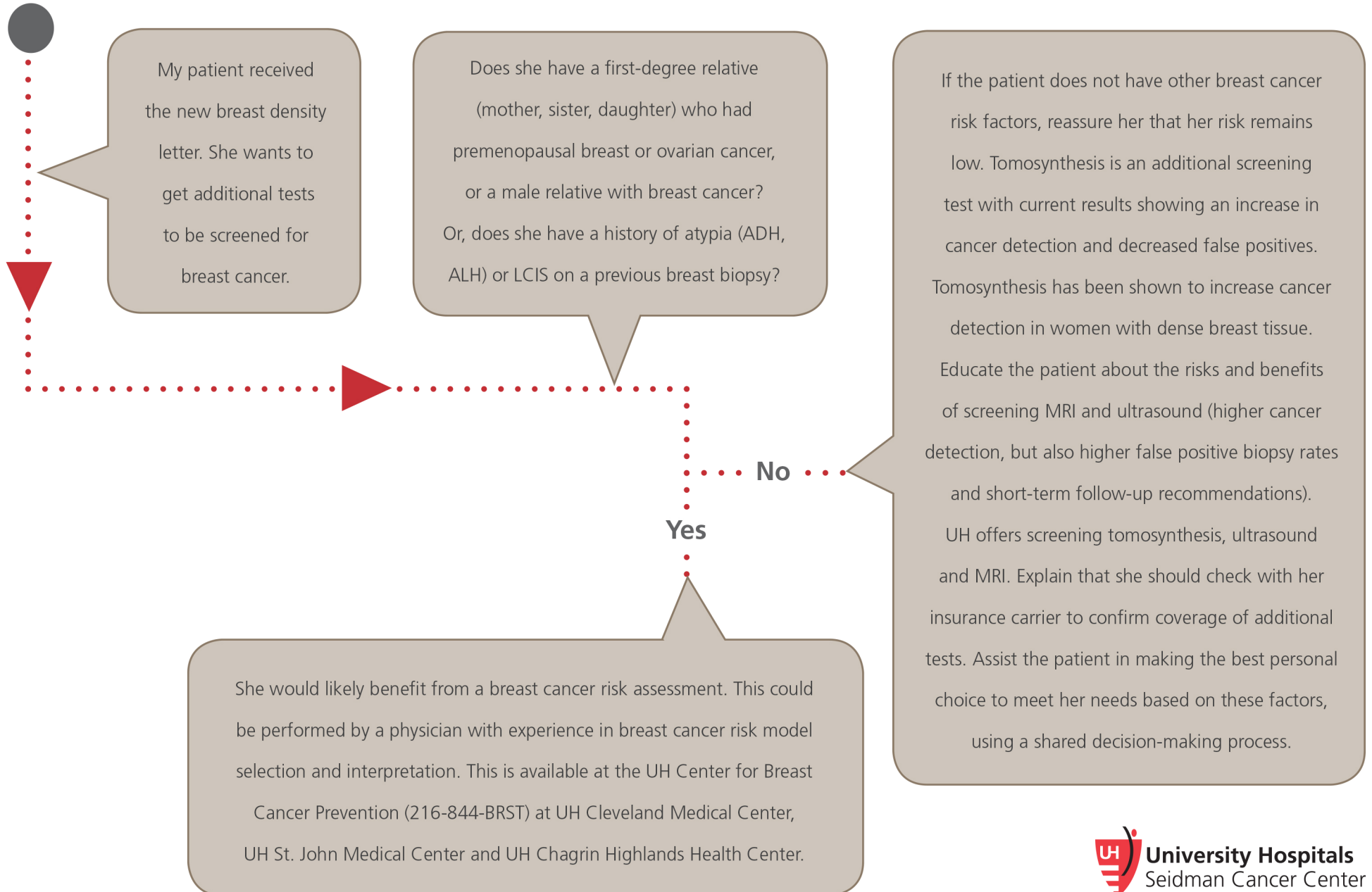


# Patient wants additional tests to be screened for breast cancer

Start



My patient received the new breast density letter. She wants to get additional tests to be screened for breast cancer.

Does she have a first-degree relative (mother, sister, daughter) who had premenopausal breast or ovarian cancer, or a male relative with breast cancer? Or, does she have a history of atypia (ADH, ALH) or LCIS on a previous breast biopsy?

If the patient does not have other breast cancer risk factors, reassure her that her risk remains low. Tomosynthesis is an additional screening test with current results showing an increase in cancer detection and decreased false positives. Tomosynthesis has been shown to increase cancer detection in women with dense breast tissue. Educate the patient about the risks and benefits of screening MRI and ultrasound (higher cancer detection, but also higher false positive biopsy rates and short-term follow-up recommendations). UH offers screening tomosynthesis, ultrasound and MRI. Explain that she should check with her insurance carrier to confirm coverage of additional tests. Assist the patient in making the best personal choice to meet her needs based on these factors, using a shared decision-making process.

She would likely benefit from a breast cancer risk assessment. This could be performed by a physician with experience in breast cancer risk model selection and interpretation. This is available at the UH Center for Breast Cancer Prevention (216-844-BRST) at UH Cleveland Medical Center, UH St. John Medical Center and UH Chagrin Highlands Health Center.