

RISKS & BENEFITS

BENEFITS

- The major benefit of mammography is the early detection of breast cancer which significantly increases the chances of successfully treating the disease.
- When small cancers are found, the patient has more treatment options, and a cure is more likely.
- Mammography can detect very tiny, abnormal spots (microscopic calcifications) that would never be found on breast self-examination.

RISKS

- Mammography uses small doses of radiation. We are continually striving to ensure that precautions are taken to minimize the amount of radiation used to complete the procedure.
- There is a slight risk of rupture of breast implants for patients who have them.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Please advise your doctor and the technologist performing the procedure if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on specific mammography examinations and procedures please visit:

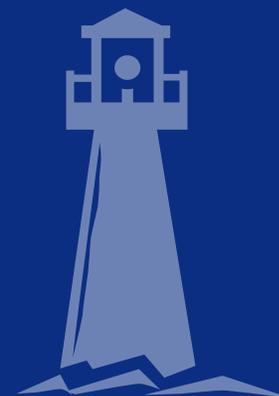
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Go to the "Our Services" tab,
Select "Medical Imaging"

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MAMMOGRAPHY

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MAMMOGRAPHY

SCREENING OR ROUTINE MAMMOGRAPHY

Tests are performed by a technologist that is specially trained in breast imaging. The examination is performed on patients with no symptoms of breast cancer and is primarily done for the early detection of breast cancer. It can show changes in the breast up to two years before a patient or a physician can feel them.

DIAGNOSTIC MAMMOGRAPHY

Tests are performed to evaluate and detect abnormalities in the breast tissue and glands.

Diagnostic mammography includes examinations required as a follow-up to a screening or routine mammogram where a possible abnormality has been detected on the images (additional views such as spot views, magnification views, etc.), to detect possible abnormalities on patients with palpable lumps or masses, nipple discharge, and pain or swelling.

PREPARATION

You will be asked to refrain from using perfumes, deodorant, powders or body lotions as they may interfere with the x-ray image.

Instructions for preparation are specific to the examination you are booked for and will be included in the letter you receive to advise you of your appointment date and time. The doctor who ordered your examination may also give you information about the required preparation.

Prior to the examination, patients are asked to remove jewelry and metal objects and to wear a gown.

PROCEDURE

The initial screening or routine mammogram requires two images of each breast:

- one taken from the top (called a cranio-caudal or CC view)
- one from the side (called a mediolateral oblique or MLO view).

The breast is placed on a platform and compressed with a paddle that is made of clear Plexiglass or other plastic.

Compression is necessary to:

- even out breast thickness so breast tissue is better viewed and small abnormalities will not be hidden by overlying breast tissue.
- reduce radiation exposure
- prevent motion that could blur the image

The examination can be uncomfortable due to the compression of the breast but should not be painful. If you normally have tender breasts before your period you should try to schedule your mammogram when your breasts are less sensitive. The procedure takes approximately 15 to 30 minutes.

Your images will be viewed before you leave the department. In some cases additional images may need to be taken.

Don't panic! Fifteen to 20 per cent of patients will require additional imaging and the majority of these patients will have a final normal report. Additional imaging may include; spot views, magnification views, ultrasound, MRI, core biopsy, etc.

WHO REPORTS THE TEST?

A radiologist, a physician with specialized training in mammography, will report your mammogram results.

Your doctor should receive a signed report within **10 business days**. You should follow-up with your doctor to discuss the results of your test