

Breast Imaging Suite

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MAMMOGRAPHY

Mammography is a specific type of X-ray examination of the breasts. It is used as a screening tool for the detection of abnormalities in the breast tissue.

Research has shown that annual mammograms lead to early detection of breast cancers, when they are most curable and breast conservation therapies are available. While mammography is the best screening tool for breast cancer available today, mammograms do not detect all breast cancers. Also, a small portion of mammograms indicate cancer is present when it is not (called a false-positive result).

PREPARATION

Try to schedule your exam during the time of month that your breasts are least sensitive. You may take a non-aspirin pain reliever such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Aleve® or Motrin®) one hour prior to the study to decrease breast sensitivity. Avoid coffee, tea or caffeinated products up to 5 days prior the exam. On the day of the exam, refrain from using powder, cream or deodorant on your breasts or under your arms. Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit to your appointment.

If you had prior mammograms at another facility, please bring them with you. If you are unable to obtain them, let us know when scheduling your appointment so we may request them.

THE PROCEDURE

A specially trained female technologist will bring you to the exam room and position your breast in the mammography unit. Your breasts will be placed on a special platform and compressed with a paddle. Although this may be uncomfortable, it should not be painful and will last only seconds. The breast must be compressed while the X-ray is taken, in order to get the best image detail of the breast.

After screening exams, you are free to leave. For diagnostic exams, you will be asked to wait while the radiologist reviews your study as additional imaging may be requested.

AFTER THE EXAM

A radiologist, a physician with expertise in interpreting mammograms, will analyze the images and send a report to you and your physician. On occasion, you may be asked to return for more (diagnostic) imaging; while some of these studies find breast cancer, most render normal or benign results.

Note: Any woman who is pregnant, or thinks she might be, should let her doctor know before proceeding with the exam.