

Diagnostic Mammogram Patient Information Brochure

Q: What is a “Diagnostic Mammogram”?

A: A “Diagnostic Mammogram” is a mammogram test that includes more specific imaging than a “Screening Mammogram”.

Q: What is a “Screening Mammogram”?

A: A Screening Mammogram is ordered by a physician for a patient that is symptom free.

Q: I heard the term “Call Back” being used. What does that mean?

A: A “Call Back” is a simple term used to refer to a patient who has had a mammogram and the Radiologist (doctor who specializes in reading mammogram and ultrasound test images) reviews their exam and is requesting additional information to complete their report.

Q: What do you mean by “more specific imaging”?

A: The technologist takes digital images (pictures) in the basic views of a mammogram and also includes, for example, a magnified view or a view from a different angle.

Q: Will I know the results of my mammogram or ultrasound after my appointment today?

A: **Yes.** You will have the results of your mammogram or ultrasound that was done today, before you leave.

Q: Why can't I just get an Ultrasound of my breast?

A: Although ultrasound exams are used in conjunction with mammograms, they are not used in every situation. The technologist can explain this to you in more detail when you see her today.

Q: Why am I scheduled for an Ultrasound and not for a Diagnostic Mammogram?

A: Mammograms are not used to differentiate between a mass being a cyst or a solid. Ultrasound tests can tell us if the mass is fluid filled or not.

Q: Will I need a biopsy?

A: After the Radiologist reviews your tests, he/she may recommend you have a biopsy.

Q: Why would a biopsy be necessary?

A: If the Radiologist sees an area on your images that is suspicious or abnormal looking, he/she will recommend a biopsy of the area.

Q: What is a biopsy?

A: A biopsy is a procedure to take a sample of the breast tissue. The tissue sample is sent to a Pathologist (doctor who specializes in looking at tissue under a microscope) for review to see if the cells look normal, abnormal or cancerous.

Q: If I need a biopsy, when will my biopsy be performed?

A: We make every effort to get your biopsy scheduled today if the Radiologist thinks it is necessary. If we are unable to do it today, we will schedule it within the next few days.

Q: Why do I have a longer wait than the screening mammogram patients?

A: “Screening Mammograms” only take 5 – 10 minutes to perform the exam and then the patient leaves after the exam is finished. They do not get their results that same visit.

Q: I don't have anything wrong with me right now so why am I having a “Diagnostic Mammogram”?

A: “Diagnostic Mammograms” are also ordered for patients who have had prior biopsies or known disease. If you were at risk for disease of any kind prior to today, or have found a lump, they will routinely order “Diagnostic Mammograms” instead of “Screening Mammograms.”

Q: Why is it necessary for the Mammogram test to compress the breast tissue?

A: By compressing the breast tissue as flat as possible, we are able to reduce the dose of radiation you receive and we are able to see the structures within the breast much better.

Q: Is it painful to compress the breast tissue?

A: Some patients find it uncomfortable but normally tolerable. Please speak with the technologist if you have concerns prior to your exam.

Q: I heard your staff is compassionate and they try to use the compression device very slowly so I can tell them when to stop compressing. Is that true?

A: **Yes.** We use the manual controls to adjust compression so we do not rely on the automatic compression. We believe we can react more quickly to your needs this way.

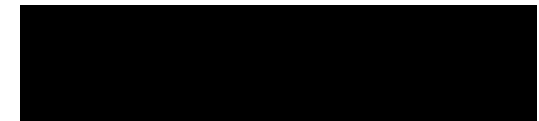
Q: Will your staff explain the procedure to me before they begin?

A: We pride ourselves on explaining the procedures to you and allowing time to answer your questions to your satisfaction before we begin.

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Option 1 – Scheduling
Option 2 – Women's Imaging Center

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Common Questions and
Answers to help you
understand
why you are having a
“Diagnostic Mammogram”
or
Ultrasound of the Breast