

Mammography

What is a Mammogram?

A mammogram is a radiograph (x-ray) of the breast. Mammography is done for routine screening when there is no clinical problem of the breast. It is also done for diagnostic purposes, when there are clinical indications, such as :

- lumps in the breast
- thickening of the skin of the breast
- dimpling of the skin
- changes in the shape or position of the nipple
- discharge from the nipple

Who performs your Mammogram?

A medical radiation technologist with specialized training in mammography.

What happens during the procedure?

You will be asked to fill out an information sheet. You will be asked to remove clothing above the waist, and to put on a hospital gown. Usually 4 images (2 of each breast) are taken. Because each patient is a different size and shape, sometimes extra images are required. The breast is compressed between the image receptor and a plastic paddle. Compression reduces the thickness of the breast and allows for better visualization of the breast tissue. The radiologist (x-ray doctor) reading the mammogram will sometimes request other images or ultrasound, in order to further visualize an area. The goal of mammography is to demonstrate all of the breast tissue, to ensure a thorough examination.

Should I expect any after effects as a result of this procedure?

Although compression does not damage the breast tissue, there may be some temporary redness, and mild aching of the breasts.

When and how will I know the results?

Your physician will receive a written report from the radiologist (specialized medical doctor). You should obtain the results from your physician. If there is an urgency, your physician is more than welcome to contact us by phone.