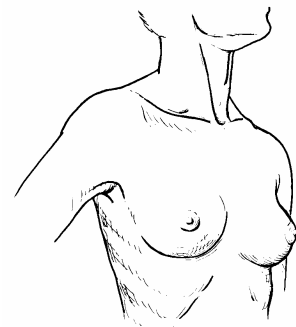


MAMMOGRAM

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

A mammogram is low-dose x-ray of the internal structures of the breasts. It can find breast cancer that is too small for you or your doctor to feel. Breast cancer can be treated with the most success when it is found early. Women in their forties and older should have a screening mammogram every year. A doctor may order a diagnostic mammogram if a change has been detected in your breasts or you have symptoms including a lump, thickening, swelling, pain, nipple discharge, or retraction or bulging of the skin of the breast.



How should I prepare for this test?

If you are wearing deodorant, antiperspirant, or powder, you will be provided wipes for removal prior to your test. If you experience monthly breast tenderness with your menstrual cycle, try to schedule your mammogram for the first 10 days after you start your period, after the tenderness has subsided. Tell your technologist if you have breast implants. Special positioning techniques allow the breast tissue to be visualized without damaging the implants. If you have had your previous mammogram at another facility, these films will need to be sent or brought here for comparison.

How is this test performed?

You will be taken to an exam room and asked to change into a gown. You will stand in front of a x-ray machine and the mammography technologist will place your breast between two paddles of the mammography machine to separate the breast tissue. This will give a more accurate picture while using the lowest amount of radiation possible. A routine or screening mammogram requires two views of each breast, one from the side and one from the top. A diagnostic mammogram involves additional views that focus on the suspicious area. Magnification views are close-up pictures of a suspicious area.

How will this test affect me?

Compression of the breast will last only a few seconds and may be slightly uncomfortable, but should not be painful.

How will I receive results of this test?

Your mammogram films will be read by a radiologist, and the results will be sent in a letter to both you and your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS