

Mammogram

A Mammogram is a low dose x-ray technique which has been developed specifically for breast examination. It is one of the ways of detecting breast cancer at an early stage, before there are any signs or symptoms of disease. However, not all breast cancers can be detected by mammography and/or ultrasound.

Preparation

If you experience significant breast discomfort during your period, it may be best to schedule your mammogram to avoid this time.

You should wear clothing that allows you to leave the bottom half on (e.g., slacks, shirt, half slip) but enables you to remove all your clothes on the upper part of your body. This will be better for privacy and warmth.

Do not wear any perfume, deodorant or talcum powder as these can affect the films.

Procedure

You will be asked to stand in front of the x-ray machine. For the best mammogram pictures it is necessary to compress (squeeze) the breast by a specific amount of pressure.

Some patients find this uncomfortable but it is essential to obtain clear films. If it is too painful, please let the technicians know immediately.

Further films may need to be taken to ensure a thorough examination.

Charges

Medicare rebate is payable for patients who have symptoms of breast cancer or who have a family history of breast cancer.

For patients with a family history, some experts advise mammography examinations should commence at 35 years of age and be repeated at annual intervals.

How long will the procedure take?

You should allow approximately 30 minutes for the procedure.

You may be required to have an ultrasound after the mammogram. This is quite routine and assists with your mammogram diagnosis. Approximately 30 minutes is required for this.

The radiologist will then examine the films and write a report to your referring doctor.

Please contact your referring doctor to discuss the results.

Keeping films

All mammogram x-ray films should be kept so that these may be compared with each new examination. It is often a minor change in the appearance that leads to correct and early diagnosis.

PLEASE BRING ANY PREVIOUS X-RAYS OR SCANS WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR EXAMINATION.

CONFIRM ANY PREPARATION REQUIRED WITH STAFF WHEN MAKING YOUR APPOINTMENT.

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I-MED NETWORK
Leaders In Diagnostic Imaging

Your doctor may request to go filmless

With the growing use of digital imaging, Pittwater Radiology is giving doctors the opportunity to not receive hard copy films and to replace them with electronic reports and images – in other words, go “filmless”.

If your referring doctor elects to go “filmless,” once you have completed your medical imaging examination, you will no longer have to wait for x-ray films. The images will be sent electronically to your doctor’s computer together with a report from our Radiologist.

If you require films in the future, all films are stored digitally and can be requested at anytime with 24 hour notice.

MAMMOGRAMS ARE PERFORMED AT OUR DEE WHY,
FRENCHS FOREST & MONA VALE CLINICS

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