

Mammography & breast ultrasound

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MAM01



Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination

Mammography examinations generally take approximately 30 minutes.

Please bring with you:

- > Your request form
- > All previous relevant imaging
- > Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

What is a mammography examination?

Mammography is a low-dose x-ray examination used for early detection of breast cancer. As breast cancer may affect one in eight women in their lifetime, regular mammograms after the age of 45 years are recommended.

Preparation needed prior to the examination

If you have breast tenderness prior to your periods, it is advised you attend for the mammogram after your period has finished.

On the day of the examination you must not wear talcum powder or deodorant as these can interfere with the interpretation of the x-rays.

It is very important you bring previous mammograms to your appointment. It is vital to be able to make comparisons with earlier mammograms as minor changes in appearance are of great importance.

For patient comfort we recommend you wear two-piece clothing.

Please be prepared to describe any breast symptoms you have to the mammographer at the beginning of your examination.

What will happen during the examination?

You will be asked to undress to the waist while the x-rays are performed on each breast. After the x-rays are viewed by the radiologist, (specialist medical imaging doctor) it is not uncommon for extra views to be performed. To obtain a clear image of the breast tissue the breast needs to be firmly compressed for a few seconds. This may cause brief discomfort but is necessary for

an accurate diagnosis. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds during imaging. It is important you keep as still as possible during the procedure.

Ultrasound

Ultrasound scanning of the breast may also be performed at the time of your mammogram examination. For patients under 35 years of age, ultrasound may be the preferred initial test because the breast tissue is denser at this age.

Are there any risks?

When undergoing a mammogram, you will receive a small dose of x-ray radiation. The benefits of detecting disease are believed to outweigh any potential risks from receiving such a small dose. However, please advise the radiographer if you are, or think you may be pregnant.

After the examination

Our radiologist will review and report on your imaging. This may take up to two hours. For your convenience we can generally deliver the imaging and report to your doctor by the next working day. If you require the results for a follow up appointment on the day of the examination, you will be required to wait for the results. Please note that some referring doctors require their patients to wait for their imaging and reports after the scan. If this is not possible, you may arrange to collect the imaging and report at an alternative time.

It is important that you follow up the results of your mammogram with your referring doctor.

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