Mammography & breast ultrasound

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MAM01

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

Mammography examinations generally take approximately 30 minutes.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- Medicare and any
- Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

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?

Patients You will be asked to undress to the waist while the x-rays are performed on 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

The images will be reviewed and reported by our radiologist. These will then be sent to your referring clinician. For details on reporting timeframes, please speak with our reception staff. It is important that you follow up the results of your examination with your referring clinician.

Benson radiology

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