Contrast Enhanced Mammography (CEM)

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MAM04

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Please note:
CEM is available at our Modbury Hospital, Morphett Vale, North Adelaide and Western Hospital clinics.

Duration of examination

Contrast enhanced mammography examinations generally take longer then a routine mammogram at approximately 60 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

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What is contrast enhanced mammography?

A contrast enhanced mammogram (CEM) uses iodinated contrast dye to significantly increase the information acquired during a routine mammogram.

CEM can increase the detection of breast cancer, because the contrast dye enhances lesions or unusual blood flow that may not otherwise be well seen. This is especially valuable for those with dense breast tissue.

What can I expect during my CEM appointment?

Before the mammogram a small IV cannula will be inserted into a vein in your arm. This will be used to inject the contrast dye and will be removed after the mammogram.

Shortly after the contrast injection, you may feel a temporary warming sensation and experience a metallic taste - this is all normal and dissipates quickly. If you have difficulty breathing, feel faint, have an itching sensation, a rash or pain at the injection site, please let the mammographer know.

Once the contrast is administered, the mammographer will position you for the four images taken for a routine mammogram. There is no extra pressure (compression), and it takes the same amount of time.

Two exposures are taken for each view, and the images are combined to create an additional image that shows only the contrast uptake within the breast.

What are the risks?

Patients undergoing CEM are exposed to slightly more radiation than a routine mammogram.

A medical history (renal/thyroid function, diabetes, blood pressure and allergy profile) will be taken prior to the contrast injection to ensure compatibility with the contrast dye.

Reactions to contrast dye can occur—but are rare. Most are mild, such as hives and itching. More serious reactions include facial swelling and difficulty breathing.

If you have a known contrast allergy, you will be offered an alternative examination.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, we will discuss alternative imaging options with you.

Will other testing be required?

You may still need further tests once your CEM is performed, such as an ultrasound, MRI or a biopsy. Your clinician may refer you for one of these tests, or our on-site specialist breast radiologist may request further tests to evaluate the findings from your CEM.

Results will then be made available to your referring clinician.

What if there's something abnormal found on my CEM?

An abnormality found on CEM may indicate a range of conditions — from benign breast lesions to breast cancer.

You should book a follow up appointment with your referring clinician who will discuss your pathway. This may include a referral to a breast specialist or surgeon.

Please turn

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What do I need to do on the day of my CEM?

Please ensure you drink plenty of fluid prior to your examination as this will make it easier for staff to access a suitable vein for the contrast injection.

As with a routine mammogram, do not wear deodorant, talcum powder, lotions or oils, as this can interfere with image accuracy.

Your appointment time may take longer than a routine mammogram. This is due to the administering of the contrast. You will also be expected to remain in the department post imaging to ensure no adverse effects following the injection.

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