

Mammography

A mammography is an X-ray examination of the breasts. These X-ray images show fat tissue, glandular tissue, and connective tissue, allowing even very small changes in the breast to be detected sometimes even before you can feel them.

When do you need a mammogram?

You can be referred for a mammography if you feel a lump or other changes in the breast, if you have breast pain, if blood or fluid is coming from the nipple, or if breast cancer runs in the family. We also perform follow-up examinations for patients who have had breast cancer in the past.

How does a mammogram work?

The radiographer will first ask you a few questions that are important for the examination. The examination then begins.

The radiographer places your breast on a detector plate. Using a second plate, the breast is compressed for a few seconds. This pressure is necessary to obtain a sharp and properly assessable image. This may feel a bit uncomfortable or even painful. The radiographer will discuss this with you beforehand. Please indicate if you cannot tolerate it. After the image has been taken, the plate automatically moves up.

To allow comparison between both breasts, both breasts are imaged whenever possible. The radiographer takes two images of each breast. For men, only one image is taken per breast—from the side.

The radiographer checks whether the images are technically successful, and if necessary, will take additional images immediately. The examination takes about 15 minutes in total.

For patients under 30 years old, or for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, only an ultrasound of the breasts will be performed.

With the latest generation of prosthetics, the risk of damage is close to zero. Never the less, our experienced lab technicians will take this into account and apply special techniques to minimize the load on the prosthetics.

The amount of X-rays used for breast imaging is very small. The importance of a timely detected breast abnormality outweighs the potential risks of X-rays greatly.

Preparation

You do not need to follow any special preparation for this examination. However, do not use body lotion or deodorant on the day of the examination. These products can sometimes interfere with the diagnosis.

Results

A radiologist will assess the images. Sometimes the mammography does not provide enough information and further examination is needed. The radiologist may request additional images and/or perform an ultrasound. You will receive a preliminary result from the radiologist immediately after the examination. You must consult your (family) doctor yourself to arrange an appointment to discuss the final results.

Questions?

If you have any questions after reading this information, please ask your treating physician or the X-ray technician(s).

You can call us on **045 – 8 200 100**
to make an appointment (Mon-Fri from 8AM to 5PM)

