

5

Finding out the results

A board certified radiologist will interpret the mammogram and report the results to your physician. You will also receive a letter about your results within two weeks.

Your Mammography appointment:

Patient Name:

Date/Time:

You may pre-register 24-hours prior to your scheduled exam by calling the Partnership for Breast Care at (860) 545-1018.

Please arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled exam for registration purposes.

Imaging Center of Hartford Hospital
Department of Radiology
2nd Floor

If you have not registered, please arrive 45 minutes before your scheduled exam at the Hartford Hospital Admitting Department on the 1st floor.

Our mammography technologists are skilled medical professionals who have received specialized training in mammography positioning and techniques. They are state licensed radiology technologists who have advanced practice certification in mammography by The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

The full service Breast Diagnostic Center at Hartford Hospital offers:

- Breast Localization
- Breast MRI
- Breast Ultrasound
- Mammography
- Mobile Mammography
- MRI Guided Breast Biopsy
- Stereotactic Biopsy
- Ultrasound Guided Biopsy

Notes & questions:



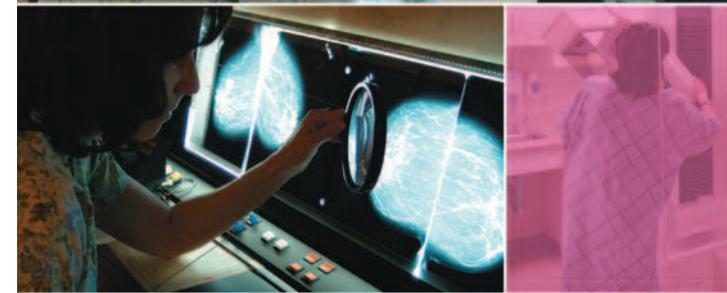
IMAGING CENTER
HARTFORD HOSPITAL



PARTNERSHIP
for BREAST CARE
Specialists and Hartford Hospital Working Together
HARTFORD HOSPITAL

Mammography

A Patient's Guide



IMAGING CENTER
HARTFORD HOSPITAL

1

What is a Mammogram?

A mammogram is an X-ray examination of the breasts. It is used to aid in the diagnosis of breast diseases and is the primary means for early detection of breast cancers.

A screening mammogram is performed when a woman has no complaints or symptoms. A diagnostic mammogram is used to evaluate an abnormal clinical finding, such as a breast lump, that has been found by the woman or her physician. The American Cancer Society recommends that women have an annual screening mammogram beginning at age 40.

The mammography unit uses a small dose of radiation to produce detailed images of internal breast tissue. This information is reviewed and interpreted by an experienced radiologist and also processed for computer-aided diagnosis, or CAD. With CAD, a mammogram is scanned into a computer which analyzes the study in detail. The computer looks for telltale signs that might identify and thus improve the detection of early breast cancers. The expertise of a radiologist is critical for deciding which areas marked by the CAD system might represent an abnormality. The best evaluation of a woman's mammogram includes both review on a CAD system and evaluation by an experienced radiologist.

Accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR).



2

Preparing for Mammography

Please schedule your examination the week following your menstrual period, when your breasts are less tender.

Please do not apply underarm deodorant, powders, ointments or creams to your chest area the day of your scheduled exam. These products can show up on the images.

If possible, please bring prior mammography exams from other facilities with you at the time of your exam.



3

What happens during the Mammography exam?

When you arrive, we will review your medical history and any past imaging procedures with you. Our mammography technologist will explain the exam and answer any questions you may have at this time.

You will be asked to change into a gown before your examination. Our mammography technologist will ask you to stand in front of the mammography machine. It will be raised or lowered according to your height and your breast will be positioned on the platform. Each breast is imaged separately and will gradually be compressed with a clear plastic plate. Compression may feel tight but should not hurt. This is needed to ensure a clear picture, reduce motion and to reduce the amount of exposure necessary. Our mammography technologist will monitor you closely and minimize any discomfort.

You will be asked to change positions slightly between images and asked to hold your breath when each picture is taken. The examination process should take approximately half an hour for a screening mammogram and up to one hour for a diagnostic mammogram.

4

Precautions and key information

Please remove all jewelry and other items to avoid possible interference from metal fasteners in clothing.

Please let us know if you are pregnant or may be pregnant.

If you have any questions about your scheduled procedure, please call (860) 545-2861. We encourage anyone with special needs to call us.