Providence

Providence Imaging Center

3D Mammography

What is 3D mammography?

3D mammography is a revolutionary new screening and diagnostic tool designed for early breast cancer detection. During the 3D exam the X-Ray arm sweeps in a slight arc over your breast, taking multiple breast images. Then, a computer produces 3D images of your breast tissue in one-millimeter slices, providing greater visibility for the radiologist to see breast detail in a way never before possible. They can scroll through images of your entire breast like pages of a book.

The additional 3D images make it possible for a radiologist to gain a better understanding of your breast tissue during screening (1), significantly improving early breast cancer detection (2)(3) and providing the confidence to reduce the need for follow-up imaging. (4)(5)

Why is there a need for 3D mammography? What are the benefits?

With conventional digital mammography, the radiologist is viewing all the complexities of your breast tissue in one flat image. Sometimes breast tissue can overlap, giving the illusion of normal breast tissue looking like an abnormal area.

By also looking at the breast tissue in one-millimeter slices, the radiologist can provide a more accurate exam. (2). In this way, 3D mammography finds invasive cancer missed with conventional 2D mammography. (2-4) It also means there is less chance you will be called bac for a "second look," because now they can see breast tissue more clearly. (4-5)

What should I expect during the 3D mammography exam?

3D mammography compliments standard 2D mammography and is performed at the same time with the same system. There is no additional compression required and it only takes a few seconds longer for each view.

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1. Zuley M, Bandos A, Ganott M, et al. "Digital Breast Tomosynthesis versus Supplemental Diagnostic Mammographic Views for Evaluation of Noncalcified Breast Lesions." Radiology. 2013 Jan; 266(1):89-95. Epub 2012 Nov 9. 2. Skaane P, Bandos A, Gullien R, et al. Comparison of Digital Mammography Alone and Digital Mammography Plus Tomosynthesis in a Population-based Screening Program. Radiology. 2013 Apr; 267(1):47-56. Epub 2013 Jan 7. 3. Ciatto S, Houssami N, Bernardi D, et al. "Integration of 3D Digital Mammography with Tomosynthesis for Population Breast-Cancer Screening (STORM): A Prospective Comparison Study" The Lancet Oncology. 2013 Jun;14(7):583-589. Epub 2013 Apr 25. 4. Rose S, Tidwell A, Bujnock L, et al. "Implementation of Breast Tomosynthesis in a Routine Screening Practice: An Observational Study." American Journal of Roentengenology. 2013 Jun; 200(6): 1401-1408. Epub 2013 May 22. 5. Haas B, Kalra V, Geisel J et al. "Comparison of Tomosynthesis Plus Digital Mammography and Digital Mammography Alone for Breast Cancer Screening" Radiology. 2013 July 30. [Epub ahead of print].