

## What happens if an abnormality is detected?

- After the mammography exam, the images are transferred to the radiologist for review
- If a possible breast cancer lesion is detected on the mammogram, other examinations will be necessary to get the information needed for an accurate diagnosis. Such exams could involve ultrasound, contrast-enhanced spectral mammography (CESM), MRI and/or a breast tissue biopsy



Book your appointment today:

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# Annex Medical Imaging

## Guide to a better breast screening experience.



# Understanding your mammography exam

## What is a mammogram?

A mammogram is a low radiation-dose x-ray exam that produces an image of your breast that radiologists use to help detect and analyze the presence of lesions (e.g. tumors, cysts, calcifications).

## Why should I get a mammogram?

One in eight will develop breast cancer over the course of their lives.<sup>1</sup> Mammography exams allow radiologists to better detect possible abnormalities in the breast at early stage, when it's easier to treat. And with GE's Senographe Pristina, radiologists have superior diagnostic confidence in the images acquired.

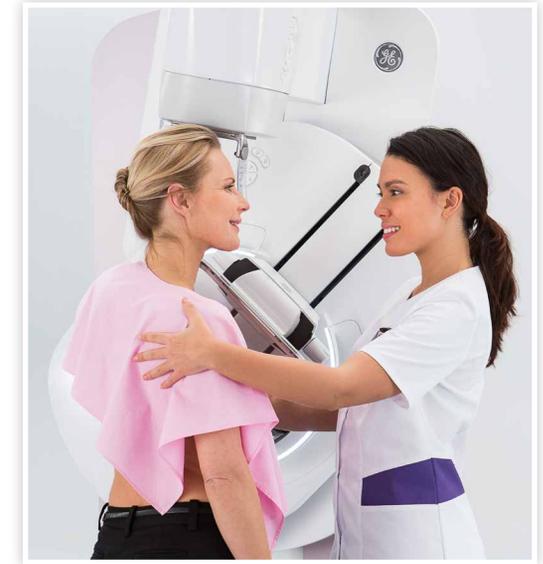
<sup>1</sup> Source : National Cancer Institute

<sup>2</sup>. GE screening protocol consists of 3D CC/MLO + V-Preview CC/MLO, V-Preview is the 2D synthesized image generated by GE Seno Iris mammography software from GE DBT images. FDA PMA P130020/S001 <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMA/pma.cfm?id=P130020S001>, Data on file.

Average glandular dose in digital mammography and digital breast tomosynthesis: comparison of phantom and patient data. Bouwman, R. W. and al., et. 2015, *Physics in Medicine & Biology*, pp. 7893-7907.

## What steps are involved in a mammography exam?

- You will be invited to remove your shirt and leave your belongings in the **dressing room**
- When you're ready, the radiographer will guide you into the **examination room** and explain where to stand
- The radiographer will then carefully **position your breast** on the detector plate and show you where you can comfortably place your arm
- Once properly positioned, **your breast will be compressed** so that the lowest possible radiation dose will be needed for a precise image
- On average, a mammography examination lasts for a few minutes, unless additional views or exams are required.



## Is it really painful?

Breast compression is necessary to obtain the image quality needed to accurately detect lesions in a mammography image and limit absorbed radiation dose.

Today, many mammography systems are designed to improve patient comfort. For instance, mammography units are equipped with safety mechanisms that limit compression at an identified level to prevent unnecessary pain.

Also, mammography exams are often scheduled at the early to middle stage of your menstrual cycle, when your breasts are less sensitive and easiest to image.



Your mammography images will look similar to this



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