

## Mammography

A mammogram is an X-ray of the breast. It is the best screening tool widely available today to detect breast cancer early — when chances for survival are greatest. Susan G. Komen for the Cure® recommends having a mammogram every year starting at age 40 if you are at average risk. Ask your doctor which screening tests are right for you if you are at higher risk.

Answers to these questions will help you understand mammography

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**Q:** Is there anything I should do to prepare for my mammogram (i.e., wear a two-piece outfit, not apply creams and deodorants and schedule the mammogram when the breasts are least sensitive, for example, after my period is over)?

**A:**

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**Q:** If I have dense breasts, is a mammogram right for me? Or are there other tests I should be having instead, such as a digital mammogram or MRI?

**A:**

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**Q:** What is the difference between digital mammography and regular mammography?

**A:**

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**Q:** What will the mammogram show?

**A:**

**Q:** Who will get my mammogram report? Can it also be sent to my other doctors?

**A:**

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**Q:** How long will it take to receive the results? Who will notify me of the results? (Do not assume “no call” from your doctor’s office means that everything is as it should be. In most cases, you should have the results within 10 working days.)

**A:**

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**Q:** What happens next if the mammogram shows something that looks abnormal?

**A:**

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**Q:** Will my insurance cover the mammogram? What about Medicare? Will I have to pay anything?

**A:**

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**Q:** What happens if I use a different mammography center or move? Should I take my past films with me?

**A:**



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen for the Cure does not provide medical advice.

**[www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org) 1-877 GO KOMEN**