Hudson Hospital & Clinic
HealthPartners®

Mammography screening services

Routine screenings are done to check the breasts when there is no sign of a problem.

Please read the information below. Before your exam, the technologist will ask you about adding 3D/Tomo imaging. She can answer your questions so you can decide which option is best for you

Two-Dimensional (2D) Mammography

2D mammography takes digital pictures of the breast. It's the current standard for breast imaging and is used at all HealthPartners mammography locations.

Three-Dimensional (3D) Mammography/ Tomosynthesis (Tomo)

This type of breast imaging is also called breast tomosynthesis. It provides the best possible x-ray image quality of the breast.

What is 3D/Tomo mammography?

3D/Tomo mammography is a digital exam that produces a 3D image of the breast. It gives us a "stack" of images in layers to better evaluate the breast tissue.

3D/Tomo mammography allows breast radiologists (doctors with training in breast imaging) to examine breast tissue more thoroughly. Fine details are more clearly visible, no longer hidden by the tissue above and below. 3D images give a better view of the size, shape, and location of abnormalities. This results in a better exam.

Studies of 3D/Tomo mammograms have been shown to better detect breast cancer in nearly all breast densities. It also decreases the number of patients who need to return to have more images taken.

There is an additional charge for 3D/Tomo imaging that is usually covered by insurance. Some insurance plans, like Medica, do not currently cover additional charges for 3D/Tomo imaging. This may result in a charge or copay to you.

You are encouraged to ask your insurance plan if you will have any out of pocket costs for CPT code: 77063 (3D imaging).

What to expect during your exam

Getting a 3D/Tomo mammogram exam is very similar to a 2D digital mammogram. The technologist will position your breast using compression as before. However, for 3D/Tomo, the mammo machine makes a slight sweeping motion. You will not notice a longer time in compression or overall exam time.

The technologist views all the images on the computer to make sure she has captured enough images for review. Then your images are sent electronically to the radiologist for interpretation.

Radiation

Our 3D/Tomo exam generates a 2D image, so the radiation dose is the same as that of a standard digital 2D mammogram alone. The FDA requires a 2D image even if you receive a 3D/Tomo mammogram.

For more information
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