

Introduction

Mammography is a x-ray imaging procedure to screen for cancer and suspected pathology in the breast.

The Operation / Procedure

1. Two views are performed for each breast. Body relaxed with head rotates to one side. Back straight with tummy in and lean forward.
2. Breast rests on bucky, whole breast pulled out with force.
3. The breast is compressed by a flat plastic paddle. Patient may feel pain or discomfort during compression of the breasts, especially when performed in pre-menstrual period. This process is absolutely important because it can improve image quality, increase the diagnostic accuracy and reduce radiation dose.
4. Patient may stop if compression is found intolerable.
5. Ultrasound scan may be done if necessary.
6. The examination takes approximately 1 to 2 hours, though occasionally the time required may be longer.

Before the Operation / Procedure

1. A written consent is required.
2. Inform radiological staff before the examination if patient is or may be pregnant.
3. Abstaining from coffee or postponing the procedure to post-menstrual period may decrease the discomfort.

After the Operation / Procedure

After the examination, you may have pain for a short period of time. In rare situation, bruise may occur in some patients.

Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

Reference

Smart Patient Website by Hospital Authority: Mammogram (2004)