



## Introduction

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

## The 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 the 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 Examination

1. A written consent is required.
2. Inform medical staff before the examination if the patient is or may be pregnant as the examination involves radiation that is harmful to a fetus. A pregnancy test may be necessary in case of any doubt regarding the examination has to be proceed.
3. No contraceptive method is 100% effective.
4. You should also tell our nurse or radiographer the date of your last menstrual period (LMP).
5. You may be offered a pregnancy test (blood or urine) if necessary. However, please note pregnancy tests CANNOT exclude the possibility of a very early pregnancy.
6. We will assess your likelihood of being pregnant, based on the available information.
7. If you are pregnant or if the possibility of pregnancy cannot be excluded, doctor will re-assess the potential risk and benefit of performing this radiological examination to you and your fetus.
8. If the benefit of performing this radiological examination is greater than the risk, we may continue with this examination if you agree. It is your right to decide whether you want to continue with this examination.
9. If the risk of performing this radiological examination is greater than the benefit, we may consider arranging alternative investigations which do not use radiation, or to reschedule this examination.
10. After the examination, in the case that you realise you might have already been pregnant on the date of this examination, please consult your clinical doctor for advice as soon as possible.
11. Abstaining from coffee or postponing the procedure to post-menstrual period may decrease the discomfort.

## After the Examination

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 examination. While common conditions are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of complicated condition could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

## Reference

Smart Patient Website by Hospital Authority: Mammogram (2004),  
Radiological Investigation Information to Women of Child-bearing Age (2019)

### Patient's Label

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital No: \_\_\_\_\_

Episode No: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_