

# Breast Health *Highlights*

What you need to know about your *Screening Mammogram*



## Welcome

Thank you for choosing the Breast Care Center at Oconee Medical Center for your digital screening mammography. Digital mammography is a screening tool that uses X-rays to create a digital image of the breast. These digital images, called mammograms, are used to find early signs of breast cancer such as a dense mass or clusters of calcium (microcalcifications). Digital mammography is the best screening tool used today to find breast cancer. It can find cancers at an early stage, when they are small (too small to be felt) and most responsive to treatment.

*Feel better*  
*Live more fully*

Before your test, let your mammographer know your concerns.

## Your results

You should receive a letter with your results within two weeks.

If you do not get your results within two weeks, follow up with your health care provider or call us here at the Breast Care Center. at 864.885.7340



## What to expect during your test

Getting a screening mammogram takes about 15 minutes.

A mammographer will come to the waiting room to get you when your room is ready. The mammographer will:

- Escort you to a dressing room.
- Ask you to remove your clothing to your waistline. A robe will be provided for you to wear.
- Ask you to remove any lotions or deodorant that you may have on as they may contain chemicals that can interfere with your images. Wipes are provided in your room.
- When you are ready, the mammographer will escort you to the adjacent mammography room for your test.

During your procedure the mammographer will:

- Ask you a series of questions to help the Radiologist better understand your health.
- Place each breast between two plates and press. To obtain the best images, proper compression will be applied.
- Make a X-ray image. Two views of each breast are taken, one with the X-ray beam aimed from top to bottom and the other from side to side.

Sometimes, the pressure can be uncomfortable, but it usually only lasts a few seconds. If the discomfort is too much for you to bear, please tell the mammographer.

When your mammogram is complete, the mammographer will escort you back to your dressing room to put your clothes back on. Deodorant is available in the dressing room for you.

## Callbacks

If a finding is abnormal, or the image was not clear enough to read the results, you will be called back for a follow-up visit.

Follow up may include one or more of the following:

- Another mammogram
- An ultrasound
- In some cases, a biopsy may be needed.

It is not uncommon to be called back for an abnormal finding. If you are called back, don't panic.

Most abnormal findings are not breast cancer.