



What to Expect During a 3D Screening Mammogram

A screening mammogram is usually performed on women every year after the age of 40 who have no breast problems.

- You will have to undress above the waist to get a mammogram. The facility will give you a wrap to wear. It is a good idea to wear a two-piece outfit to your appointment.
- A certified mammography technologist will position your breasts for the mammogram. You and the technologist are the only ones in the room during the mammogram.
- To get a high-quality picture, your breast must be compressed. The technologist will place your breast, one at a time, on the machine's plate. The plastic upper plate is lowered onto your breast for a few seconds while the technologist takes a picture. As soon as the picture is taken, the paddle will automatically release from your breast. You will then need to change position before the next picture is taken.
- You might feel some pressure and discomfort when your breasts are compressed, and for some women it can be painful. If at any time during the exam it becomes too painful, please let your technologist know.
- Two views of each breast are usually taken for a screening mammogram. However, for some women, such as those with breast implants or very large breasts, more pictures may be necessary. If the technologist needs to reposition for some reason, an extra picture may be taken to get an accurate reading.
- The whole procedure takes about 10 to 15 minutes. The actual breast compression only lasts a few seconds each time.
- After the procedure is completed, you can dress in the dressing room and leave.
- You will receive your results in the form of a letter in the mail.

What to Expect During a 3D Diagnostic Mammogram

A diagnostic mammogram is often performed if a woman has breast symptoms, such as a lump, or if a change is seen on your recent screening mammogram requiring you to return. Please keep in mind that you may have been called back because the new 3D technology looks so much clearer when compared to your prior studies.

- Additional pictures may be taken during a diagnostic mammogram with a focus on the area that looked different on the screening mammogram.
- During a diagnostic mammogram, the images are checked by the radiologist while you are here so that more pictures can be taken if needed to look more closely at any area of concern.
- In some cases, special images known as spot views or magnification views are done to make a small area of concern easier to see.
- An ultrasound of your breast may also be needed after your diagnostic mammogram to look at certain areas of concern.
- You will receive your results verbally on the day of your exam.

How Do I Schedule My 3D Mammogram?

At McLeod Health, scheduling your 3D mammogram is easier than ever when you use our online appointment tool. To schedule a 3D Mammogram at any of our hospital locations, simply visit www.McLeodMammogram.org. You can also call (843) 777-2095 and choose option 1.

How Will I Receive My Mammogram Results?

A full report of the results of your mammogram will be sent to your health care provider. We will also mail you an easy-to-understand letter with your results within 7 to 10 business days or “as quickly as possible,” but no later than 30 days. This means you could get the results before your provider. If you do not receive a letter within 30 days, please call us at 843-777-6332 or call your health care provider.

McLeod Health

McLeodBreastHealth.org