

PATIENT INFORMATION

Mammography

Mammography is still the Gold standard world wide for detecting Breast Cancer; thus the successful breast screening programs adopted in many countries including Australia.

A Mammogram is a detailed x-ray of the breast(s) usually involving two views of each breast taken by a qualified and highly trained mammographer.

The patient is changed into a gown removing top and bra. For each projection, the patient's breast is placed onto a platform then compression is applied to hold the breast in position whilst the exposure is taken. The patient feels mild discomfort for only a few seconds. The compression does not damage the breast tissue. It allows for better definition by spreading out overlapping glandular tissue.

With the advent of Digital Mammography, no cassette or film is used. Instead, the platform holds digital detectors which produce an electronic image of the breast. This has reduced the time of examination to about 10 minutes and there is a decrease in radiation dose compared to older methods.

X-ray and Imaging's new Amulet S Digital unit has 50 micron detectors which are more accurate and have greater sensitivity for dense breast tissue.

The images make it possible to detect tumours that cannot be felt and see very fine microcalcifications.

Patients with Breast Implants can still have a mammogram. Different techniques and projections are employed with the examination taking a little longer.

The Implant is NOT compressed during the examination.

Whilst making a booking, you will be asked to avoid wearing talcum powder and/or deodorant as compounds within these products can be picked up by the imaging equipment and diminish the accuracy of the images taken.

When the examination is complete, the patient can get dressed and collect their images from reception. A Radiologist's report is emailed to their Doctor by close of business the same day.

X-ray and Imaging, Caloundra, performs Diagnostic Breast Imaging including Digital Mammography and high resolution Ultrasound scanning; and actively follows the guidelines of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists' Mammography Quality Assurance Program for Digital Mammography Accreditation.