

# Mammogram

A mammogram is an X-ray of your breast. It is the best way to detect breast cancer. You should have a yearly mammogram after age 40 or sooner if you have higher risk for breast cancer. Talk to your doctor about your risk factors.

**Arrive on time for your test.**

## To Prepare

- **Tell the staff before the test if there is a chance you may be pregnant.**
- Do not use deodorant, lotion or powder under your arms or on your breasts the day of your test.

## During the Test

- You need to undress from the waist up. You are given a paper gown to wear.
- You are asked to stand next to the machine.
- There are at least 2 X-rays taken of each breast.
- The person doing the test needs to touch and move your breast to get it in the right spot for each X-ray.
- Small sticky dots may be put on your nipples to help show them on your X-rays.
- Your breast is squeezed between 2 flat surfaces. This may hurt, but it does not harm your breasts.
- You are told to take a deep breath and hold it while the X-ray is taken.
- Each X-ray takes less than 30 seconds.
- The X-ray may need to be repeated if the X-ray is not clear.
- If you have breast implants, more X-rays will need to be taken and the test will take more time.

When all the X-rays are done, be sure to remove the sticky dots and throw them away. You will be able to get dressed and you can return to your usual activity.

Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**

