

## Consent to Mammography

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
consent to undergo mammography. I have read the information in the *Mammography – a Guide for Patients* pamphlet. I understand the benefits and limitations of mammography and in particular I understand that there is a small risk of a cancer being missed.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Consent to Breast Biopsy

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
consent to undergo breast biopsy:

Right / Left

Fine Needle Aspiration / Core Biopsy

X-ray / Ultrasound guidance

I have read the information in the *Mammography – a Guide for Patients* pamphlet. I understand the benefits and risks of breast biopsy and in particular I understand that there is a small risk of a cancer being missed.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Your Appointment

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Central

Bridge Road Imaging 9242 4888

### Northern

Brunswick Diagnostic Imaging 9383 6266

Healthcare Imaging Bundoora 8467 0800

Northern Hospital Radiology 8405 9600

### Eastern

Blackburn South Radiology 9878 6255

Glen Waverley Medical Imaging 9802 2055

Healthcare Imaging Knox 9210 7100

Healthcare Imaging Ringwood  
(Breast Biopsy only) 8804 4030

### South Eastern

South Eastern Radiology 9562 3433

### Regional

Wimmera Radiology 5381 9236

For further information please go to our website:  
[www.healthcareimaging.com.au](http://www.healthcareimaging.com.au)

## Mammography and Breast Biopsy

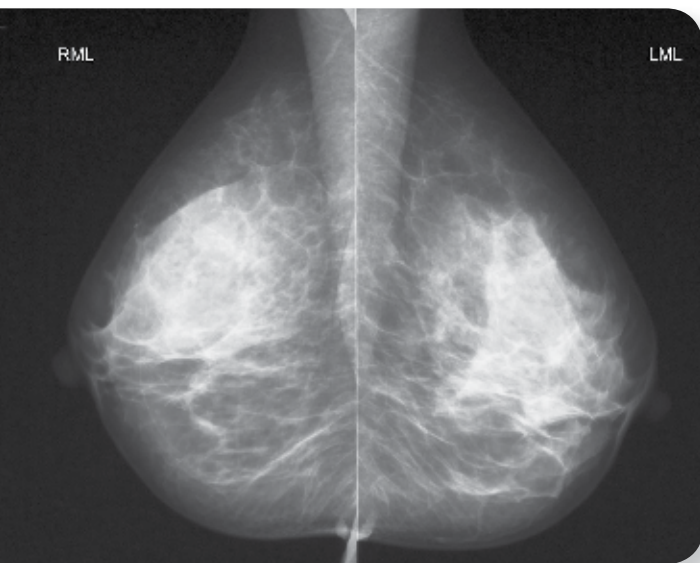


Healthcare Imaging Services

## What is Mammography?

Mammography is an x-ray of the breasts and is used to detect cancer. It is safe and widely used.

Mammography detects most, but not all cancers. The detection rate is less in dense or scarred breasts, whereas in fatty breasts the detection rate may be higher. Younger women generally have denser breasts than older women. Ultrasound is also used in assessment of the breasts, often together with mammography. Occasionally, the patient may need to be recalled after mammography for additional views or for an ultrasound. Most women who are recalled for additional views have either normal breasts or benign (non-cancerous) lesions like cysts or fibroadenomas.



## On the Day

A special x-ray machine is used. The breast is compressed between 2 plates and drawn away from the chest wall so as not to miss a small, deeply placed lesion. This may be somewhat uncomfortable but lasts only a few seconds. Usually 2 views of each breast are obtained, but more or less views may be appropriate on occasions. Avoiding tea and coffee for 24 hours beforehand will reduce the discomfort of breast compression. Talcum powder and under arm

deodorant should not be used on the day, as it can mimic micro-calcifications seen in cancer. Comparison with previous mammogram is very important to detect subtle changes, so please bring any previous mammograms with you. The radiation dose used in mammography is very small and is considered safe.



## Who Reads the Films?

Experienced radiologists read the films. Many of our radiologists also work at Breast Screen where they see a large number of normal and abnormal mammograms. Our mammography sites are accredited by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. Most results are available to the referring doctor within 48 hours, but will take longer if we have to obtain previous mammograms for comparison.



## What is Breast Biopsy?

Breast Biopsy is performed under local anaesthetic, and is a common, minor and safe procedure. Ultrasound or x-ray guidance is used to guide the biopsy needle to the right spot. After the skin is washed with an antiseptic, local anaesthetic is injected into the skin to numb the area. An aspirating or a cutting (core) needle is used to obtain tissue from the area in question. The material obtained is sent to a pathology lab for analysis, and tells your doctor if the tissue sampled is benign or malignant (cancerous).

Complications are rare. Mild bruising is the commonest complication. Rarely there may be infection or bleeding into the tissues. Please tell us beforehand if you have an allergy to antiseptic or sticking plaster, or if you have a bleeding disorder or are taking anticoagulants or drugs to "thin" the blood. Pneumothorax (air in the chest outside the lung) is extremely rare.