

MAMMOGRAMS .NOT A PERFECT TEST

Breast cancer is often subtle and very difficult to diagnose. Breast cancer can silently grow in one or both breasts for many months or even years before it forms a “lump” or casts a “shadow”. The cancer may not show any symptoms or pain while it is growing. Some cancers are diffuse and do not form lumps or cast “shadows”. The breast cancer cannot be detected during these early stages, however, it is still very dangerous. Mammography and breast self exam are currently the best methods to detect breast cancer but, it is not the ultimate answer. Approximately 8-10% of cancers **CANNOT** be detected by mammography. We need a more sensitive screening test but this will have to await further research and development. We urge all patients to take advantage of mammography, which is currently one of the most widely used technologies in breast cancer detection.

When you have a mammogram, please have the report sent to our office (it usually takes 5-7 days to get the official written report). We will be happy to review the report and communicate with you the contents of report. Most reports contain a BiRads classification information format, similar to the following

- 1) The mammogram shows no evidence of cancer.
- 2) The mammogram shows a “shadow” that **requires** further evaluation either, additional physical examination, repeat mammogram, ultrasound or possible biopsies.
- 3) Additional tests (sonogram, X-ray coned down views, etc.) are needed.
- 4) Other- (i.e.) biopsy, surgical consultation, etc..

If you need further studies then you should make the appointment for these studies, as soon as possible.

The office staff is not authorized to give opinions, discuss the details of the report, the diagnosis, or the treatment options, etc..

The physician or other licensed professional will be happy to discuss your case personally with you.