

## MAMMOGRAPHY AND BREAST IMPLANT INFORMATION SHEET

Your doctor has recommended mammography for you. Mammography is a process that involves the use of x-ray to visualize the breast tissue. Mammography is the most sensitive method for the detection of breast cancer.

Mammography is used for two purposes; screening or diagnosis. Screening mammography is used to screen women for breast cancer in the absence of signs or symptoms of any disease. Diagnostic mammography is performed on women with signs or symptoms, abnormal screening mammograms, or special characteristics such as breast implants. In your case, we will be evaluating not only the breast tissue, but also the breast implants for their integrity.

This information sheet was prepared to assist in answering questions or concerns you may have regarding this procedure. The mammogram will require two sets of x-rays. Both sets of films require a different degree of compression to the breast.

The first set of films is obtained to evaluate the implant itself. Compression of the breast is necessary to immobilize the breast to permit satisfactory evaluation of the implant margins. There is no guarantee that a breast implant will not be damaged, however such damage is very rare. Generally, less compression is necessary over the implant than is used to image the breast of women without implants, and the direct force applied to the implant is probably less than if you were to lie on your abdomen.

The second set of films evaluates the breast tissue surrounding the implant. In this view the technologist will push the implant toward the chest wall while bringing breast tissue forward so that it can be adequately compressed. This maneuver allows for an improved image of the breast tissue. The pressure on the implant with this technique should be minimal.

I have read this information sheet and have had the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns that I may have had.

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Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Technologist Signature

