

Digital Mammogram



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What is a Digital Mammogram?

A digital mammogram is a noninvasive test used to help detect breast diseases. Digital mammography uses a computer rather than x-ray film to digitally record and store images of the breast. These images become a more versatile diagnostic tool that can be enlarged or highlighted.

Digital Mammography has been proven superior to analog (film) imaging particularly in those women under the age of 50, patients who have dense breasts, or patients who are pre or peri-menopausal. Our equipment uses 1/4 to 1/3 less radiation dose and less compression.

CPT Codes

G0202 Screening

G0204 Diagnostic G0206 Diagnostic Unilateral

Additional codes used in billing: ICad for screening 77052, ICad for diagnostic)

Indications

Screening: routine annual exam

Diagnostic: palpable abnormalities, focal pain/tenderness,
nipple discharge, dimpling of the skin, nipple retraction

Contraindications

Women under the age of 40 unless indicated by her physician. Pregnancy, breast feeding (patient should wait until 4 months post nursing unless clinically indicated).

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

Your patient should wear a comfortable two-piece outfit.

Refrain from applying lotions, deodorant, powders or perfumes around the breast and armpit area.

Inform us if her last mammogram was performed at a location other than Iowa Radiology. We will contact that facility and attempt to obtain the images for comparison prior to the exam.

What Happens During the Test?

The technologist will obtain a detailed history from your patient. She will be provided a gown and asked to undress from the waist up. The technologist will place the breast on a platform and gradually compress it with a plastic paddle. Your patient will be given breathing instructions.

The exam takes approximately 15 minutes.

After the Test

Your patient may resume normal activities. Deodorant and toiletries are available to your patient following the exam.

The Results

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within 1 business day.

If additional views are needed, we will contact your patient to schedule this follow up and notify the referring physician of this in the report.

In addition, patients with normal mammograms will also receive a letter in the mail notifying them of these results.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. Jill Westercamp)

This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.