

Procedures/Diagnostic Tests

Mammogram

You are scheduled for a mammogram. A mammogram is an x-ray examination of the breast. No injections are involved. The procedure will be done in the x-ray room of the Diagnostic Radiology Department.

Preparation

- You may eat or drink whatever you like before the procedure.
- Remove any bandage or adhesive tape from your breast. If adhesive tape was used, please clean your skin thoroughly.
- Do not use powder, deodorant, perfume, or creams the day of the procedure. These products may cause unrelated shadows to appear on the picture.

Procedure

- When you arrive in the room for the procedure, you will be asked to remove all your clothing above the waist.
- Your breast will be placed on a small platform, and a cone-shaped device will press on your breast.
- X-rays of each breast will be taken as necessary. To get clear and satisfactory pictures, it may be necessary to reposition your breast.
- The procedure lasts 30 to 60 minutes.

After the procedure

There are no after-effects.

If you have questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are ready to assist you at all times.

Special instructions

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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