Preparing for a Mammogram

Before scheduling a mammogram, Gwinnett Medical Center-Duluth and the American Cancer Society recommend that you discuss any problems with your doctor. Inform them of any prior surgeries, hormone use and family/personal history of breast cancer.

You should not schedule your mammogram for the week before your period if your breasts are usually tender during this time. Always inform your health providers if there is any possibility that you are pregnant.

We also recommend that you:

- Do not wear deodorant, talcum powder or lotion under your arms or on your breasts on the day of your exam. These can appear on the mammogram as calcium spots.
- Describe any breast symptoms or problems to the technologist performing the exam.
- Obtain the results and/or images of prior mammograms if you did not have them at a GMC facility and provide them at the time of the current exam.
- Follow up with your physician to discuss the results of your mammogram.

Latest Technology

All GMC locations are fully digital. Digital mammography uses computer technology to produce an image that can be displayed on a high-resolution monitor, transmitted and stored like computer files. Unlike film-based, digital mammograms produce images that are available for viewing in seconds. There is no waiting for film to develop, meaning shorter exam times.

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Screening Mammography

The Center for Screening Mammography at Gwinnett Medical Center-Duluth is a state-of-the-art imaging center that offers screening mammography and bone densitometry. All images are interpreted by board-certified radiologists. Appointments are scheduled every 15 minutes, with late afternoon and evening appointments available.

Bone Density: A bone density exam shows the density or thickness of your bones. Results are obtained by imaging your lower spine and hips. This examination is done while lying on your back on a padded bone density table. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete from start to finish.

Screening Digital Mammography: A screening digital mammogram is usually a four-view exam; two pictures of each breast - a front view and a side view. Sometimes, additional images may be needed to get all of your breast tissue imaged. With each picture, compression is used to spread the tissue out and reduce any blurry motion on the picture. The compression is tight, uncomfortable, and it is possible to have slight pain, but it does not last long. Our radiologists will interpret your images and their report will go directly to the physician who ordered your exam. A result letter will be mailed to your home.

Diagnostic Mammography

The Center for Women’s Diagnostic Imaging at Gwinnett Medical Center-Duluth is a state-of-the-art imaging center committed to the fight against breast cancer. All images are interpreted by our board-certified radiologists.

Imaging Services:
- Diagnostic Digital Mammography
- Diagnostic Breast Ultrasound
- Male Breast Diagnostic Imaging
- Breast MRI

Imaging Procedures:
- Stereotactic Vacuum-Assisted Core Biopsy
- Ultrasound Vacuum-Assisted Core Biopsy
- Cyst Aspiration/Fine Needle Aspiration
- Ductogram
- Image-Guided Needle Localization
- Radioisotope Injection for Sentinel Lymph Node Identification

Visit gmcimaging.org for a complete list.

A Healing Environment

The Center for Screening Mammography and the Center for Women’s Diagnostic Imaging have soothing music in a peaceful and private setting. Both centers offer refreshments, such as gourmet coffees, juices, bottled water and an assortment of cookies, including sugar-free selections.

In addition, Wi-Fi Internet, magazines and robes have been provided to make your experience as comfortable as possible.