Information about your Mammogram

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<th>Appointment Day:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Time:</th>
<th>Procedure:</th>
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Mammography is located on the first floor of the hospital in the Breast Health Center.

Accurate diagnosis of breast cancer is as important to a woman’s survival as any element of treatment.

Points of Interest

- Mammography is safe.
- Mammography uses low dose radiation.
- Mammography may diagnose disease long before it can be felt.

What is a Mammogram? And What Will Happen?

Your physician has ordered a mammogram for you. Mammography is a virtually pain-free exam of the breasts that uses low dose radiation. Most medical experts agree that successful treatment of breast cancer often is linked to early diagnosis. Mammography plays a central part in early detection of breast cancers.

Once you arrive for your mammogram, you will be asked to remove clothing and jewelry from the waist up and put on a hospital gown. If present, you will need to remove any deodorant or powder that might show up in your breast area. The technologist, whose specialty is mammography, will take your medical history and tell you about your exam.

Your breast will then be positioned by the mammography technologist on a special platform and gradually compressed with a clear plastic paddle. The compression is necessary to smooth out breast tissue and produce accurate images. The pressure from the paddle is tight for only a few seconds. It is not dangerous and does not cause damage to the breast tissue.

Your mammogram will usually involve two images of each breast and take about 20 minutes.

If you are pregnant, or suspect that you may be, you should tell your physician and/or technologist before the test is performed.

What should I do to Prepare for my Mammogram?

If you usually experience premenstrual breast tenderness, schedule your mammogram two weeks after the start of your menstrual period. Wear a two-piece outfit so you can change more easily. Do not wear perfume, powder, or deodorant on the day of the exam. If you are pregnant, or suspect that you may be, you should tell your physician or the technologist before having the exam.

You may bring a book, magazine, or something else to do in case you have to wait a few minutes for your exam. You are welcome to bring someone with you to your appointment.

You may eat, drink and take your medication as normal.

After your Mammogram

You have no restrictions after a mammogram and can go about your normal activities.

Rapid results are essential not only for your peace of mind, but also for your physician to begin planning your treatment. The MCG Department of Radiology will read your images shortly after they have been completed. The results will be forwarded to your doctor within a few days of the study. Your physician will discuss them with you. A letter showing your results will also be mailed to you within 30 days.

DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY
(706) 721-XRAY (9729)
Driving Directions from South Augusta
Deans Bridge Road towards Augusta
Cross Gordon Highway
Deans Bridge turns into Milledgeville Road
Turn left onto 15th Street
15th Street parking deck just past
Laney Walker on the right.

Driving Directions from West Augusta
Washington Road toward Augusta
Calhoun Expressway
Take 15th Street exit
Turn Right onto 15th Street
Go past second Red light (Harper Street)
15th Street parking deck just past
Harper Street on the Left

Free patient parking is conveniently available in the 15th Street Parking Deck as well as the Harper Street Deck

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