

COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER
Breast MRI Patient Fact Sheet

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Why has my doctor recommended breast MRI?

While mammography remains the gold standard for screening for breast cancer, it is well known that mammography does not detect all breast cancers with approximately 10-15% of breast cancer missed or not detected at screening mammography. The density of the breast tissue is the most pronounced in young women and women with dense breasts.

Because of the limitations of our current state of the art screening for breast cancer, other technologies are emerging to help improve detection.

Some of the current indications include:

- Evaluation of implants
- Evaluation of the breast in established breast cancer to exclude multicentric or multifocal disease
- Screening the contralateral breast in a patient with known breast cancer
- Evaluation of equivocal findings on mammography and/or breast ultrasound
- Strong family history
- History of treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Positive Brac1 or Brac2 Gene Markers

Why should I have a breast MRI?

Community Medical Center was pleased to announce the initiation of breast MRI services in the fall of 2006 for the community. Our new 3T MRI has the capability of imaging both breasts simultaneously, thus a breast MRI examination can be completed in one visit.

Additionally, we have the capability to perform MRI intervention including wire localization and vacuum assisted breast biopsy. We are the only hospital in Ocean County and one of the few hospitals in the State of New Jersey offering this service.

Breast MRI is able to provide exquisite resolution of the soft tissue of the breast, regardless of breast density, and its ability to image the breast in thin sections dynamically and with multiple plane imaging provides benefits above and beyond other imaging modalities.

What should I expect?

Before the study you will be asked to complete an MRI patient screening sheet to verify that it is safe for you to be in the magnetic field.

You will also be asked a detailed history related to your breast MRI exam. You will need to bring copies of your most recent films and reports.

Upon arriving in the MRI suite you will be asked to change into a gown and our nurse will place an IV needle in your arm for an injection of contrast media during your test. The technologist will explain everything to you and answer your questions. A female nurse or technologist will assist you into a facedown position on the MRI couch and position your breasts into a special breast coil opening.

Once you are positioned, you will be covered with a sheet for your privacy.

You can expect to be on the table between 30-45 minutes. During the scan you will hear the noise from the machine and have constant voice access to the technologist.

At the conclusion of the test you will be assisted off the table and covered for privacy once again.

Points about Insurance/Parking

- It is your responsibility to be sure you have obtained any required pre-certification or authorizations before the day of your appointment. *Pre-certifications and authorizations are prepared by your doctor's office.*
- Parking is free for our MRI patients. If you do not get a validated parking ticket from us please ask!

Results

The interpretation of your test will be done by a member of our radiologist team who has special expertise in Women's Imaging. A report will be sent automatically to your doctor.

Daniel Zonkle, R.T.
Lead MRI Technologist