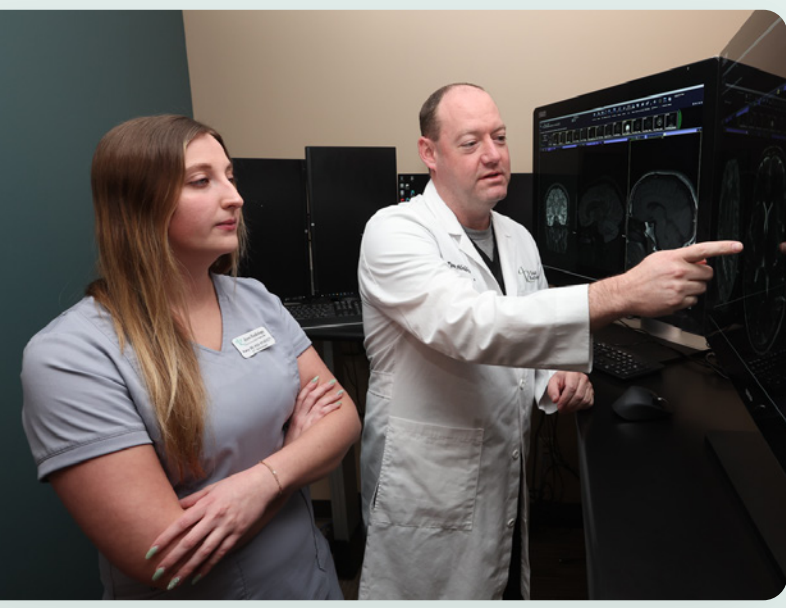


# What Does a **Mammogram** Follow Up Involve?

## Imaging

### Mammography & Ultrasound

Follow up typically begins with additional mammography images to get a closer look at the area. If the radiologist is unable to get sufficient information from these images, then ultrasound is often used to determine whether there is a fluid-filled cyst or a solid mass. The procedure is simple and most often painless.<sup>1</sup>



The scan itself takes 30-60 minutes, so plan around 60-90 minutes for the entire visit.

### MRI

MRI can provide enhanced imaging clarity and is often used to assess known or suspected breast cancer that isn't clearly visible with other imaging methods. If an MRI is ordered for you, you'll undergo a creatinine test to evaluate your kidney function. This helps to ensure the safety of using a gadolinium contrast solution, which helps to create the image clarity the radiologist will need to effectively assess your condition.

## Biopsy

### Fine Needle Aspiration

Although it's used less often than core needle biopsy<sup>2</sup>, fine needle aspiration is less invasive and can be performed in a provider's office with a local anesthetic to sample a lump found during clinical breast examination.

### Core Needle Biopsy

Core needle biopsy is an accurate way to diagnose breast cancer when performed by an experienced radiologist. To biopsy nonpalpable masses, this procedure is done in a radiologist's office so imaging can be used to pinpoint the area of concern.<sup>3</sup>

### Surgical Biopsy

Surgical biopsy may be recommended in cases where the suspicious area cannot be clearly visualized using imaging technology. The surgeon usually removes the entire tumor and some surrounding tissue, providing the most complete information possible about the tumor.<sup>4</sup>

## Regular Breast Cancer Screening

gives you the best odds of beating breast cancer and having more treatment options.



**20-40%** Screening with mammography has been associated with a 15-20% relative reduction in mortality from breast cancer.<sup>5</sup>

Starting at age

**40**

The American College of Radiology and the Society for Breast Imaging recommend annual mammography for women at average risk of developing breast cancer.<sup>6</sup>

1. "Mass shape, margin, and density as found with screening mammography." Moose & Doc Breast Cancer. Steven Halls, MD, 25 March 2017. Web. 28 March 2017. | 2. "Fine Needle Aspiration." Komen.org. Susan G. Komen, 23 Oct 2016. Web. 28 March 2017. | 3. "Core Needle Biopsy." Komen.org. Susan G. Komen, 23 Oct 2016. Web. 28 March 2017. | 4. "Surgical Biopsies." Komen.org. Susan G. Komen, 19 Oct 2016. Web. 28 March 2017. | 5. "Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2015-2016." Cancer.org. American Cancer Society, 15 June 2015. Web. 28 March 2017. | 6. "ACR and SBI Continue to Recommend Regular Mammography Starting at Age 40." ACR.org. American College of Radiology, 20 Oct 2015. Web. 28 March 2017.