

Breast MRI: A Screening Tool for High-Risk Women

An increasing number of insurance companies are paying for breast MRI as a screening tool when used in conjunction with regular mammograms. Women considered at high-risk for breast cancer—or meeting certain criteria—may be eligible.

Breast MRI for Women at Increased Risk to Develop Breast Cancer

The American Cancer Society recommends an annual screening breast MRI for women who:

- Are considered to be at high genetic risk of breast cancer (presence of BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation in the patient or in a first degree relative).
- Have a high lifetime risk of developing breast cancer as identified by assessment of family history.
- Have had previous radiation to the chest between the ages of 10 and 30.

Breast MRI for Patients with New Diagnosis of Breast Cancer

- Preoperative tumor staging (detection of other foci of cancer in the same breast [7 to 14 percent] or opposite breast [4 percent]) in patients who are considered candidates for breast-conserving surgery. This ensures that the extent of tumor spread is established and increases the chance that the optimal surgery is done.
- Evaluating response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy done prior to surgery in patients with locally advanced breast cancer.
- Diagnosing suspected chest wall invasion in patients with posteriorly located tumors.
- Evaluating residual tumor after lumpectomy with positive surgical margins.
- Detecting suspected occult breast primary tumor in patients with axillary nodal adenocarcinoma and negative mammography and physical exam.

Breast MRI for Patients with Previous Breast Cancer

Detecting local tumor recurrence in individuals with breast cancer who have radiographically dense breasts or old scar tissue from previous breast surgery that compromises the accuracy of combined mammography and ultrasound.

Breast MRI for Women with Implants

Screening patients with suspected rupture of a silicone breast implant.

Imaging Services

Scheduling

503-251-6137 phone
503-261-6058 fax

Adventist Medical Center

10123 SE Market Street
Portland, Oregon 97216

Gresham Imaging Center

831 NW Council Drive
Gresham, Oregon 97030

In March 2007 the American Cancer Society updated its breast cancer screening recommendations to include annual breast MRI for women who are at high risk of developing breast cancer in their lifetime.