

'HEAD TO TOE'

A MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF RADIOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Get The Facts!

Tomosynthesis/3D Digital Mammography Revolutionizes Breast Imaging

Early detection has been demonstrated to dramatically affect breast cancer morbidity and mortality. Tomosynthesis/3D mammography is new technology that numerous studies have proven reduce confusion caused by overlapping tissue leading to an increase in cancer detection rates and a decrease in screening callback rates. The first and only Tomosynthesis/3D mammogram machine is now available at Radiology Associates Southside office. Below are some FAQ's that may help practitioners when referring patients for a 3D/Tomosynthesis mammogram.

What are the benefits of 3D/Tomosynthesis mammogram?

- Increase cancer detection rate up to 27%.¹
- Increase invasive cancer detection rate up to 40%.¹
- Reduce screening call back rates 35-40%.²
- Reduce patient anxiety and time.

Which of my patients should get a 3D mammogram?

- All women undergoing screening mammogram are shown to benefit.³
- Especially beneficial for younger women and women with dense breasts.³

What can my patients expect from a 3D mammography?

- No increase in force of compression.
- No increase in number of times of compression.
- Similar amount of time in compression.
- Most women do not notice any difference.

What kind of radiation dose will my patients get when getting a 3D mammogram?

- Radiation differences are variable due to differences in individual breast tissue density.
- Although the radiation exposure is higher for a 3D mammogram than a 2D mammogram, Tomosynthesis is a very low dose examination that remains well below the FDA radiation limits for mammography.

How can I schedule a 3D mammogram for my patients?

- Call 361-887-7000 and specifically request a 3D mammogram available at Radiology Associates Southside location.
- Patients may also choose to add the 3D mammogram from a regular 2D mammogram order.
- A \$50 fee is required from the patient at the time of the examination as there is currently no additional CPT code for Tomosynthesis.
- The 2D mammogram portion is billed to insurance companies normally.

1. Skaane et al, *Radiology* Dec 2013; 267(1):47-56
2. Rose et al, *AJR* 2013 Jun; 200(6):1401-1408
3. Haas et al, *Radiology* 2013 Apr; 269(3):264-700

Rebecca Stackhouse, M.D., M.P.H.
Breast & Musculoskeletal Imaging
Yale Fellowship Trained



Normal 2D digital right breast mammogram



Architectural distortion seen on 3D/Tomosynthesis images only