

# Mammography Department

## Mammogram Patient Education and Information

- A mammogram is an x-ray of the breast tissue.
- Radiation exposure is very minimal, carefully controlled, monitored, and the equipment is inspected on a regular basis.
- The amount of radiation is less than the amount of radiation exposure on a cross-country airplane trip.

Mammograms show abnormalities that cannot be felt by you or your doctor. Most of these abnormalities are not cancer, but must be further investigated by physicians specializing in breast diagnosis--i.e. radiologists.

- Mammography is not 100% accurate, but it continues to be the best screening tool available for the early detection of breast cancer.
- When combined with BSE and other diagnostic tests, and interpreted by our diagnostic breast radiologists, the accuracy is greatly improved.
- Two views of each breast are obtained.
- For uniform exposure of the breast, the breast must be compressed to an even thickness producing some temporary discomfort not harmful to the breast tissue.
- Adequate compression minimizes the radiation exposure and allows optimal visualization of abnormalities.

Once your mammogram is complete the radiologist will read your mammogram and send a report to your physician. A summary letter will also be mailed to you with the results of your mammogram.

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Technologist \_\_\_\_\_