

## Breast MRI

### What is Breast MRI?

Breast MRI is a non-invasive way to view the tissue of the breast. It utilizes a magnetic field and radio waves to create a cross-sectional, three-dimensional picture. The detailed pictures allow an indepth evaluation of the breast. A Breast MRI may be conducted with or without contrast material. When evaluating for cancer, contrast must be used. Breast MRI, however, is not a replacement for any screening test, including mammography or other diagnostic imaging tools. Your physician will determine which test is right for you.

### What are some common uses of Breast MRI?

- ✚ Evaluate abnormalities seen via mammography, breast ultrasound or other diagnostic method.
- ✚ Distinguish between scar tissue and recurrent tumors.
- ✚ Assess multiple tumor locations.
- ✚ Provide additional information on diseased breast tissue.

### What can a Breast MRI show?

Breast MRI is most often used along with mammograms and/or breast ultrasound to detect breast cancer, particularly in women with very dense breasts. Additionally, the following list are some of the other things that can be seen on Breast MRI:

- ✚ Density of breast tissue
- ✚ Cysts
- ✚ Enlarged ducts
- ✚ Hematomas
- ✚ Leaking or ruptured breast implants
- ✚ Breast abnormalities
- ✚ Enlarged lymph nodes



### How should I prepare for the exam?

The Breast MRI uses a magnetic field and will pull on any iron containing object in your body, such as a pacemaker, screws, staples and so on. The imaging center staff should ask you questions regarding these items. You will need to remove any hairpins, jewelry, eyeglasses, hearing aids and any dental work that can be removed. You should report any drug allergies to the imaging staff and if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.

Unless told otherwise, you can eat normally before the exam. You should continue your medications as usual. If you have a problem with confined spaces, please inform the imaging center staff. They can work with you to ease this problem. You will wear a lightweight medical gown for the exam.

### What will I experience during the Breast MRI procedure?

The technologist will make you as comfortable as possible. You will need to lie still on your stomach during the procedure. If you become uncomfortable in small spaces, a sedative is nearly always effective. Also, music may be provided for your comfort. You may notice a warm feeling in the area being studied. This is normal, but do not hesitate to report it to the technologist if it bothers you. The loud tapping or knocking noises that are heard during certain parts of the exam are normal.

### Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

A board certified radiologist experienced in MRI will analyze the results of the procedure and send a report to your physician. Results may take up to 72 hours due to the extensive post-processing involved in evaluating the study. Your physician will discuss the Breast MRI findings with you.

For more information, please contact Pomerado Imaging.