






St. Cloud Hospital Breast Center now offering Digital Breast Tomosynthesis/3D Mammography

St. Cloud Hospital Breast Center is pleased to offer this digital technology for screening and diagnostic purposes. Breast tomosynthesis, also referred to as 3D mammography, is an advanced form of mammography that uses low-energy X-rays to create a 3D image of the breast. While conventional mammography takes pictures of the breast in 2 angles, tomography takes multiple pictures from multiple angles and creates thin slices through the breast.


What are the advantages of having a digital tomosynthesis exam if I am visiting for a routine screening mammogram?

-  Tomosynthesis helps distinguish normal overlapping tissue from an underlying mass and can lead to a more accurate diagnosis.
-  It is more accurate than standard mammography for women with both dense and non-dense breasts, but is most beneficial for women who have dense breast tissue.
-  This technology reduces the chances of a screening patient needing to come back for additional imaging tests by up to 40%.
-  Tomosynthesis has shown a 29% increase in the detection of all breast cancers and an increased detection rate of 41% for invasive breast cancers.

What are the advantages of having a digital tomosynthesis exam if I am visiting for a diagnostic mammogram?

-  Tomosynthesis improves the accuracy of the mammogram in some diagnostic patients. This may be used if the radiologist feels that it will be helpful.

Will my insurance cover a digital tomosynthesis/3D mammography exam?

-  Some insurances do cover digital tomosynthesis/3D mammography in conjunction with a 2D mammogram. Medicare began covering annual screening 3D mammography in January 2015. However, every insurance and plan is different. It is important to check with your insurance company to see if the examination is covered.

St. Cloud Hospital Breast Center and staff are excited to be able to offer this advanced technology for the early detection of breast cancer. Please call **320-229-4919** to schedule your mammogram.