



GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL
MISSION OAKS HOSPITAL

Breast Care Center

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Dear Patient,

The physicians and staff of the Good Samaritan Breast Care Center are excited to announce the addition of 3D mammography or tomosynthesis technology to our breast cancer screening program.

3D mammography is cutting edge state of the art imaging technology. Tomosynthesis or 3D mammography gives the radiologist the ability to view the interior of the breast as a series of slices or layers, separating out overlapping structures which can obscure breast cancer. This 3D examination is a separate exam, completed at the same time and in addition to the standard 2D mammogram. With this 3D technology, combined with standard 2D mammography, a significant number of additional cancers are being detected, particularly in those patients with dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue can obscure underlying or hidden breast cancer. In addition, this technology has been shown to reduce the number of patients called back for additional imaging.

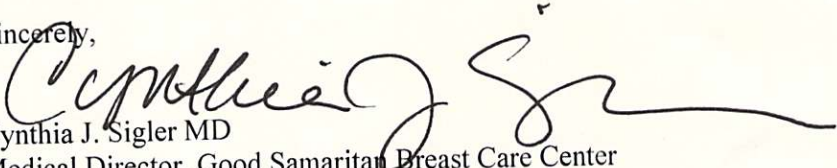
This 3D technology does require additional radiation exposure compared to conventional 2D mammography alone. The radiation dose is roughly twice that of current full field 2D digital mammography, but equivalent to film screen or analog mammography and below government safety limits. In addition, there is added cost. This technology requires significantly increased interpretation time by the physician and is not currently reimbursed by insurance companies.

We are offering this technology to every patient. However, given the increased radiation dose, our physicians believe those patients who are considered at increased or high risk and those with dense breast tissue would likely benefit most. We hope to individualize screening protocols as we move forward. If you have any questions regarding this technology and whether it might be right for you, you can consult with our physicians, our technologists or direct your questions to your referring physician.

There will be no additional charge by Good Samaritan Hospital for the technical component of a 3D mammogram. However, there will be an additional \$45.00 charge for physician interpretation. 3D is an elective service at this time. **This cost will be billed directly to you by Radiology Associates Medical Group.** Please note this is an eligible expense through flexible spending accounts.

3D mammography has met our expectations and we are confident of its benefits. We hope you will consider this new technology.

Sincerely,


Cynthia J. Sigler MD

Medical Director, Good Samaritan Breast Care Center