

Introducing Digital Breast Tomosynthesis

UPMC Hamot is proud to now offer tomosynthesis – which is also known as 3D mammography – for our patients throughout the region.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions about tomosynthesis for your reference.

1. What are the advantages of having tomosynthesis if I am here for a routine screening mammogram?

Tomosynthesis is more sensitive in detecting invasive cancers that mammography may miss. It also reduces the chances of screening patients having to come back for additional images.

2. What are the advantages of having tomosynthesis if I am here for a diagnostic mammogram?

Tomosynthesis improves the accuracy of the mammograms in some diagnostic patients. The radiologist may determine that you would benefit from a tomosynthesis.

3. How much longer does a tomosynthesis mammogram take versus a standard mammogram?

It will take just a few seconds longer, but you will probably not even notice. While in compression, the mammogram and tomosynthesis are obtained at the same time.

4. How much additional radiation will I receive?

The radiation dose is the same for a tomosynthesis or a traditional mammogram for each view. It is roughly twice when doing a standard mammogram along with tomosynthesis. However, the radiation dose from the combination study is still below the FDA regulated limit for standard mammography. The FDA has found the combination of tomosynthesis and standard mammography to be safe and effective for patient use.

5. What happens if I choose not to have a tomosynthesis?

A state-of-the-art standard digital mammogram will be performed.

6. How will I get my results?

If you are having a screening mammogram, a letter will be mailed to you with the results. If you are having a diagnostic evaluation, you will receive the results before you leave our office.



7. Will my insurance pay for tomosynthesis?

Tomosynthesis is a service covered by most insurance companies, but not all. Your insurance company will be billed for your mammogram at the time of service.

If your insurance company does not cover this service, you may be responsible for a portion or all of the payment.

Our imaging team would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding breast tomosynthesis.

For questions or to make an appointment call the UPMC Hamot Women's Imaging offices at **814-877-5560**.

