



## Diagnostic Breast Imaging

Diagnostic imaging is used when symptoms or abnormal screening results suggest the need for further investigation, whereas screening imaging is a preventive measure aimed at detecting cancer before symptoms arise. The Radiologist findings from your screening exam will include recommendations for specific exams based on the area of concern, although this may be adjusted at the time of your diagnostic visit. While there are some notable similarities in using the same type of radiology exams as screening, there are some notable differences:



**Diagnostic Mammography :** Although utilizing the same equipment, a diagnostic mammogram can include different types of images that may be more detailed or specific than what standard screening images will allow. Many areas of concern can be resolved just by changing how the tissue is compressed. This exam usually takes 20-30 minutes.



**Breast Ultrasonography (US) :** Breast ultrasound is an imaging technique that uses sound waves to create pictures of the inside of the breast. The ultrasound helps determine whether a lump is solid (which could indicate cancer) or fluid-filled (which is typically a benign cyst). It's a non-invasive, safe procedure that doesn't involve radiation, making it especially useful for women with dense breast tissue or those who are pregnant or breastfeeding. This exam usually takes 20-30 minutes.



**Breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):** Breast MRI uses strong magnets and radio waves to create detailed images of the breast tissue. Although a less common diagnostic tool, it's sometimes used in addition to mammography or ultrasound for a more comprehensive evaluation, especially for women with dense breasts, a high risk of breast cancer, or to assess the extent of cancer after a diagnosis. This exam usually takes 20-40 minutes.



Columbus OB/GYN