

## NOTES:

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For more information about Diagnostic Imaging Services of Saint Anne's Hospital, please visit [SaintAnnesHospital.org/diagnostic-imaging](http://SaintAnnesHospital.org/diagnostic-imaging)

**Breast MRI at Saint Anne's Hospital**  
Ground Floor  
795 Middle Street, Fall River  
508-674-5600, ext. 2300  
Fax 508-235-5636

Ample, free parking and free valet parking available.

## INTERPRETER SERVICES AVAILABLE

### Portuguese - Português

Fala Português? Vamos oferecer-lhe um intérprete gratuito.

### Spanish - Español

¿Habla español? Le proporcionaremos un intérprete sin costo alguno para usted.

Steward Health Care complies with applicable Federal and State civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability or age.

## Diagnostic Imaging Services at Saint Anne's Hospital

For our patients and their physicians, Saint Anne's Diagnostic Imaging Services combines the expertise of board-certified radiologists with the area's most comprehensive range of advanced imaging technology.

Our fully digitized network of imaging technology assures the highest imaging quality with less time and inconvenience for patients, as well as rapid access to the results for physicians. Images can be viewed and sent via computer to multiple specialists within the hospital, across town to a physician's office or to other hospitals and specialists in the Steward Family network.

Our dedicated team of physicians and technologists is focused on providing the highest quality imaging and patient comfort. This extends to working with our youngest patients as well as others who require special considerations and appointment scheduling for imaging.

We offer a spectrum of services, including:

- Computerized Tomography (CT) scanning
- Digital X-ray
- Digital Mammography (provided in our dedicated Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Center for Breast Care)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear Medicine with CT capability
- PET/CT imaging
- Ultrasound
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), including Breast MRI



## Digital Imaging: A High-Tech Change for Better Care

Digital imaging creates a "filmless" environment that permits rapid viewing of pictures and secure transmission to physicians whether they are in the hospital, their nearby practice or a specialist located miles away. Digital images are high quality, environmentally friendly and easier to access via PACS (Picture Archiving Communication System). Saint Anne's was the first area hospital to adopt this innovation as part of a Steward system effort to link our family of hospitals and their expertise.

The PACS system is part of a patient's secure and confidential Electronic Medical Record, which provides for improved care through integration of various tests and reports all in one easily-retrievable location.

### Care Agreement:

You have the right to help plan your care. To help with this plan, you must learn about your health condition and how it may be treated. You can then discuss treatment options with your caregivers. Work with them to decide what care may be used to treat you. You always have the right to refuse treatment.

[SaintAnnesHospital.org](http://SaintAnnesHospital.org)



## DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES



# Breast MRI

## PATIENT INFORMATION



Accredited by the American College of Radiology



## Understanding Your Exam

### What is a breast MRI?

A magnetic resonance (REZ-oh-nans) imaging scan is usually called an MRI. It is a medical diagnostic test that takes pictures of the inside of the body. A breast MRI takes pictures inside the breast. Each picture or “slice” shows only a few layers of body tissue at a time. The MRI machine uses a large magnet and a computer to make pictures of your body and does not expose you to ionizing radiation (X-ray).

### Why do I need a breast MRI?

The pictures made during an MRI can provide additional information when used in conjunction with mammography and/or breast ultrasound. Breast MRI helps doctors evaluate whether abnormalities detected by mammography are benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).

Breast MRI also helps in:

- Determining the size and location of an abnormality in the body that appears to be malignant.
- Determining whether multiple tumor locations exist in areas, including the opposite breast.
- Distinguishing scar tissue and recurrent tumors.
- Identifying breast implant rupture.
- Assessing whether cancer has spread further into the breast, nipple, or chest wall.

### How does the MRI work?

The MRI machine is large and looks like a hollow tube. You will lie on a bed that will mechanically move into the tube during the test.

The technologist sits behind a window and will talk to you during your scan. The MRI machine aims magnetic and radio waves at the part of your body being tested. These waves pass through your body to create pictures that show up on a computer screen. These images can then be taken or sent to your caregiver digitally.

### Are there times a person should not have an MRI?

If you are pre-menopausal, your exam may be scheduled to take place during a specific part of your menstrual cycle around day 7 to 14. Also it is recommended that nursing mothers who undergo a breast MRI with contrast do not breastfeed for 36 to 48 hours after the procedure. MRI is usually avoided during the first three months of pregnancy.

You should not have an MRI if you have anything in your body that attracts a magnet. You may not be able to have an MRI if you have any of the following things in or on your body:

- Aneurysm clips
- Artificial or prosthetic limbs or joints, such as an artificial knee joint 6–8 weeks post-op
- Bullets or pieces of shrapnel
- Cochlear (ear) implants
- Insulin pump
- Intrauterine device (IUD)
- Tattoos and permanent eyeliner because the paint used has lead in it that the magnet can pull out.
- Medication patch, transdermal or skin patch. Examples of medication patches are nicotine, birth control, and nitroglycerin patches. Ask your caregiver if your patch should be taken off your skin during the MRI.
- Heart pacemaker or artificial heart valve
- Implanted cardiac defibrillator
- Implanted IV ports
- Implanted spinal stimulator
- Metal pins, plates, screws, or surgical staples. (In most cases, these things will not cause a problem with an MRI if they have been in you for more than four to six weeks.)
- Pieces of metal fragments in your eyes from welding.

Patients with certain health conditions (i.e., diabetes, hypertension, cancer) will require a blood test for kidney function at least 48 hours prior to the breast MRI procedure.

## During The Test

You will likely be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will be asked a series of screening questions to be sure that none of your responses suggest that a breast MRI is inadvisable for you. For a breast MRI, contrast material is used to help the inside of the breast including cancer cells show up more clearly. The contrast is put into an IV started in a vein in your hand or arm. Your skin around the IV may feel warm or cold as the contrast is put into the IV. Tell your caregiver if you feel anything unusual after the contrast is given.

- From outside the MRI you will be positioned face down on a special MRI table. Your breasts will be placed in a padded depression in the table containing a breast coil which detects magnetic signals from the MRI machine. Just before the MRI procedure begins, you will move into the MRI for the imaging procedure. You will be able to see out of the scanner. The breast MRI takes between 30 and 60 minutes.
- You hear very loud banging noises (the sound of the machine moving) during the series of scans for a few seconds to a few minutes at a time. You will be given ear-plugs to help soften the noise.
- To be sure that your images are the very best quality possible, it is important to remain very still during the procedure. The technologist may put padding or cushions around and under you for comfort.

## After You Leave

Continue with your medications according to your physician’s directions and follow the instructions given to you after the test. If you think your medicines are not helping you or if you feel you are having side effects, call your physician. If you are taking antibiotics, take them until they are all gone, even if you feel better.

## Appointment Scheduling

**508-235-5339**

**Monday-Friday 8 am - 6 pm**

Your physician’s office will schedule your MRI. Our Scheduling staff are able to assist with all scheduling needs, as well as provide patients and physician practices exam preparation instructions when applicable.

If you are unable to keep your appointment and need to reschedule or if you wish to cancel your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible. A 24 hour notice would be greatly appreciated.

### Pre-Registration By Phone: 508-235-5674

To expedite your visit, please contact our Patient Assistance Center to pre-register for your exam. If we do not hear from you, a member of our staff will attempt to reach you. Please ensure your physician has your most up to date contact information. During the registration process we can assist you with your co-pay, coinsurance, and deductible.

Once you have pre-registered, you can arrive on the scheduled day and time and go directly to the Diagnostic Imaging Services location.

### The Day Of Your Exam

- Use our Valet Parking service at the main hospital entrance, Monday through Friday, and reduce the amount of time you spend looking for parking. It’s free, and you can pick up your car at the entrance when you are finished with your appointment.
- If you have not pre-registered: Please go to Patient Registration, located near the main hospital entrance, 30 minutes prior to your scheduled exam appointment to be registered for your exam.
- If you are diabetic, inform staff and take your medications as you would normally.
- We want our patients to be as comfortable as possible while having tests performed. However, we ask that you not bring children with you unless you have an adult to watch and care for them while you are having your procedure.
- Patients under the age of 18 must be accompanied by either a parent or legal guardian in order to receive care.