

Digital Mammography



One of the most recent advances in breast cancer screening is digital mammography. CSHP is proud to announce the recent addition of digital mammography as one of the many advanced services we offer. Digital (computerized) mammography is similar to standard mammography in that x-rays are used to produce detailed images of the breast. Digital mammography uses essentially the same mammography system as conventional mammography, but the system is equipped with a digital receptor and a computer instead of a film cassette.

Digital mammography reduces radiation exposure and allows faster and more accurate images. This has significantly improved patient convenience. Studies have also shown that the use of Computer Aided

Detection (CAD) in digital mammography may increase early detection of breast cancer by 20%.

How Does Digital Mammography Differ from Standard Mammography?

In standard mammography, images are recorded on film using an x-ray cassette. The film is viewed by the radiologist using a "light box" and then stored in a jacket in the facility's archives. With digital mammography, the breast image is captured using a special electronic x-ray detector, which converts the image into a digital picture for review on a computer monitor. The digital mammogram is then stored on a computer. The digital image magnification, orientation, brightness, and contrast may be altered after the exam is completed to help the radiologist more clearly see specific areas on the image.

Digital mammography provides many benefits over standard film mammography, including:

- Improved contrast between dense and non-dense breast tissue
- Faster image acquisition (less than a minute)
- Shorter exam time (approximately half that of film-based mammography)
- Easier image storage
- Physician manipulation of breast images for more accurate detection of breast cancer
- Ability to correct under or over-exposure of films without having to repeat mammograms
- Transmittal of images over phone lines or a network for remote consultation with other physicians



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