

TOMOSYNTHESIS:

What you need to know

Digital breast tomosynthesis is a state-of-the-art 3-D breast imaging technology. Compared to standard digital mammography, which uses X-rays to take pictures of two angles of the breast, tomosynthesis takes a series of images from different angles, creating thin slices through the breast (like a sliced loaf of bread).

HOW DOES TOMOSYNTHESIS WORK?

- Standard digital mammography takes images in two projections of the breast: top to bottom and side to side. With a mammogram, the breast tissue is compressed and held between two plates to capture images of the whole breast. The images are recorded digitally and read by a radiologist.
- Digital breast tomosynthesis takes multiple images of the breast from many different angles. The breast is positioned the same as with standard digital mammography. The images are recorded digitally and the radiologist can scroll through the set of images like a video in order to read them.

IS TOMOSYNTHESIS BETTER THAN DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY?

Research studies have shown that digital breast tomosynthesis increases cancer detection rates by 20 to 40 percent, and the recall rate for screening patients is reduced by 25 to 30 percent.

SHOULD I CONSIDER TOMOSYNTHESIS?

Digital breast tomosynthesis has shown to be beneficial for all patients, especially those who:

- are at high risk for breast cancer, either by genetic predisposition or by family/personal risk factors
- have dense breast tissue
- are undergoing their first mammogram



The FDA has approved digital breast tomosynthesis, but it is not yet considered the standard of care for breast screening. As a result, it is not available at all hospitals, and may not be covered by your insurance company.

While your insurance may cover a screening mammogram, you may be responsible for the additional cost of digital breast tomosynthesis. Before scheduling your appointment, speak with your physician and insurance company to determine what's best for you.



IF YOU'RE READY TO SCHEDULE A MAMMOGRAM, **CALL BEAUMONT'S APPOINTMENT CENTER AT 800-328-8542.**