Does 3D Mammography expose me to more radiation?

Elizabeth Wende Breast Care is utilizing recently developed 3D imaging technology with sophisticated software that has the ability to reconstruct the multiple 3D slices of each breast into a single 2D image. This allows 2D and 3D mammogram images to be available for the radiologist to interpret for every patient that has the 3D mammogram without exposing the patient to any more radiation than a standard 2D mammogram.

Can I have a mammogram with 3D mammography?

Almost all patients who need a screening or diagnostic mammogram can have 3D mammography. The EWBC staff is more than happy to discuss 3D mammography with you, either by phone prior to or at the time of your scheduled appointment. Ask our highly trained technologists when you visit one of our facilities for your mammogram.

Who reads my 3D mammogram?

After your 3D mammogram is complete our physicians, (radiologists with subspecialty training in breast imaging and 3D mammography) will interpret your images. You will receive your results at the end of your visit if you stay for your results, or within a few days if you prefer not to wait for your results. A copy of the report is sent to your physician(s).
How does a 3D mammogram differ from a traditional 2D mammogram?

The 3D mammography experience is similar to a traditional mammogram and the 3D system is identical in appearance to a standard 2D digital mammography system. The 3D imaging occurs with a single breath hold adding no additional time to your visit. Multiple images are obtained of each breast as the x-ray tube moves over each breast. These are processed and then interpreted on a computer workstation by the radiologist.

Overlapping dense breast tissue can mask cancerous lesions. 3D mammography overcomes this challenge to a greater degree.

Why is a 3D mammogram a better mammography option?

The nature of 3D mammography allows for the technology to reduce overlapping structures in the breast from obscuring small masses that could be cancers. 3D mammography can be performed just like the standard 2D mammogram with similar compression. The radiologist has a more accurate view of the breast without overlapped tissue that sometimes masks a suspicious area. The 3D exam has been shown to reduce callbacks for additional testing by as much as 50% and has also been proven in recent studies to detect more breast cancers. 3D mammography is also beneficial to patients considered to be high risk for breast cancer and those with dense breast tissue.

3D is a better mammogram utilizing technology that helps doctors find cancers earlier and decreases patient callbacks for additional testing.

EWBC was an early adopter of this new groundbreaking technology by participating in landmark early clinical research that led to FDA approval for 3D mammography and widespread implementation of this new and exciting technology throughout the United States.

EWBC was the first in our region to offer this technology to our patients since 2011.

In a standard 2D mammogram, only two images of each breast are obtained. To view a specific area in either breast, additional mammographic views have to be taken to disperse the breast tissue that may be preventing a more complete evaluation of either breast. With 3D mammography, the radiologist has a series of images to view which leads to a greater ability to accurately diagnose subtle masses or abnormalities.