

Quick Access to Breast MRI



Breast Imaging with MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is an increasingly important component of breast cancer assessment because it provides valuable information that may help with treatment planning.

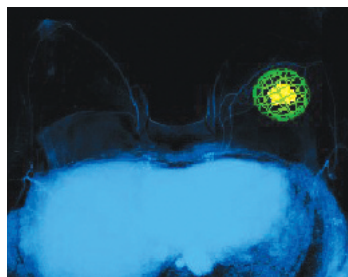
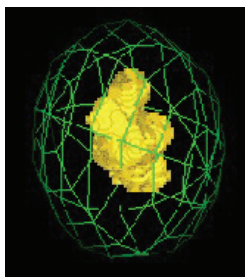
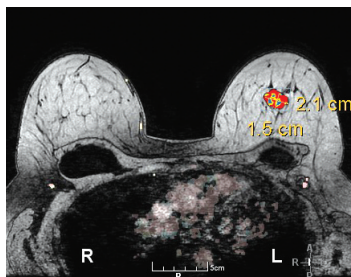
Detection of Breast Cancer and Assessment of its Extent

Detection - MRI improves the assessment of the size and location of known breast cancers. It is also used when breast cancer is suspected, but other breast imaging studies have been inconclusive. These exams are for patients whose therapeutic decisions are likely to be significantly affected by the information provided.

Staging - After a new diagnosis of breast cancer, MRI is often used for “staging” to determine the true extent of the tumor prior to beginning treatment.

Monitoring - MRI is used to measure response to neo-adjuvant chemotherapy

Screening - Patients who are breast cancer gene carriers and therefore are at high risk may be candidates for MRI screening, but should also be screened annually with mammography and possibly with ultrasound.



Breast MRI is best used in addition to a mammogram and ultrasound. Breast MRI is not a replacement for a mammogram

The MRI technique for patients with known breast cancer involves injection of IV gadolinium, an MRI contrast agent, which is exceptionally safe.

Diagnostic Examination of Breast Implants

MRI is also used for silicone breast implant assessment, to determine whether the implants are ruptured and to define the extent of leakage that may have occurred.

The imaging method for implants is NOT designed to exclude breast cancer, as contrast injections are not administered.

Physicians

All of our Breast MRIs are reviewed by two radiologists:

Ian Gardiner, MD FRCP(C) Dr. Gardiner is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the UBC Department of Radiology and a breast imaging consultant at the Specialist Referral Clinic. He is the former Chief Screener at the Screening Mammography Program of BC's Broadway location and Director of the Vancouver Breast Centre. Dr. Gardiner's area of expertise is breast imaging, including mammography, ultrasound and MRI. He lectures and teaches internationally on Breast MRI.

Bruce Forster, MD FRCP(C) Medical Director for Canada Diagnostic Centres in Vancouver. Dr. Forster is a Professor at the UBC Department of Radiology, as well as the Director of MRI at the UBC Hospital and the Director of the UBC's Comprehensive MRI Fellowship program.

Audrey Spielmann, MD FRCP(C) Radiologist at Canada Diagnostic Centres in Vancouver. Dr. Spielmann is an Assistant Professor at the UBC Department of Radiology. She completed her Abdominal Imaging fellowship at Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, NC. Dr. Spielmann has a special interest in Body Imaging (including Ultrasound, CT and MRI) and Breast MRI.

For more information on Breast MRI, please call us at 604 709 8522. To order a scan, please fax a referral to 604 709 6112. We will contact the patient within 24 hours to book an appointment. There are no waitlists at Canada Diagnostic Centres.

For more information, call
604 709-8522
www.CanadaDiagnostic.com

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Clinical Indications for Breast MRI

Cancer Assessment

- Pre-operative assessment of women with newly diagnosed breast cancer
- Close or positive surgical margins
- Patients to be treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy
- Problematic mammograms
- Lobular carcinoma
- Suspected multiple or bilateral breast cancers
- Occult breast cancer
- High-Risk Screening: breast cancer gene carriers; prior treatment for lymphoma

Implant Assessment

- For rupture or leakage of silicone implants

Please note that MRI is NOT currently recommended for breast cancer screening for average-risk patients.

Equipment

Canada Diagnostic Centres is the first facility in Canada to use CADstream™ (a computer-aided-detection system designed specifically for Breast MRI) to better process and analyze Breast MRI studies. Breast MRI with CADstream™ can assist surgeons in visualizing and localizing enhancing areas and efficiently planning for a patient's breast surgery.

Our customized reports give referring physicians a better way to communicate Breast MRI study results with patients, ultimately helping patients better understand their surgical options.

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