

Screening Breast MRI

An adjunctive tool in detecting breast cancer

What is breast MRI screening?

Breast MRI is the most sensitive tool available for breast cancer screening and may detect cancer earlier than other technologies. However, some types of breast cancer are more easily detected by mammograms. For this reason, breast MRI screening does not replace mammograms but, in certain women, can be used in addition to them. A breast MRI exam takes a minimum of 45 minutes and requires an intravenous line (IV). There is no radiation involved. Note: Breast MRI can also be used as a diagnostic exam to evaluate a specific area of concern. This brochure, however, focuses on using breast MRI as a screening exam for patients with no signs or symptoms.

Who should consider it?

Annual breast MRI screening is recommended for certain women, depending on their individual risk factors. Risk factors include a family history of breast cancer, a genetic risk for breast cancer (for example, mutations in the BRCA1/2 genes), or a history of high-dose radiation treatment to the chest (most often mantle cell radiation for treatment of lymphoma). Breast MRI screening can also be considered in patients who were previously diagnosed with breast cancer or who had a breast biopsy that showed a high-risk lesion (often referred to as “atypical hyperplasia” or “LCIS”).

When should it be done?

Most often, breast MRI screening is done annually in addition to a mammogram. Some women choose to do the MRI at the same time as their annual mammogram and other women prefer to schedule their exams in



6-month intervals to arrange for imaging twice a year. Typically, breast MRI screening begins at age 40 at the same time as annual mammograms begin.

However, if a woman has a strong family history of breast cancer or a specific gene mutation, she may begin her screening before age 40.

What are the risks?

MRI uses a very strong magnet, which could be contraindicated if you have a pacemaker or other implanted devices. There is also the very rare possibility of a reaction to the contrast medium used for this exam but precautions are taken to address this very small risk. Breast MRI is very sensitive, meaning that it's very good at identifying areas of concern in the breast. However, it may also identify areas that look suspicious, but are actually of no concern. These “false positives” may lead to additional imaging, such as a mammogram or an ultrasound, and may even require a breast biopsy.

Where can I go for more information about my breast cancer risk and the options that are available to me?

You may wish to undergo a more detailed breast cancer risk assessment. This type of assessment is often done by a specialist, like a genetic counselor, who can analyze your individual risk factors in more detail and discuss options that might be applicable to you. These options may include genetic testing or additional technologies that are available to screen for breast cancer, such as breast MRI.

Talk with your physician about your risk factors and your desire to learn more about personalized options for early detection and prevention of breast cancer. You may also contact our Patient Coordination Care line at 720.493.3459 to ask questions via phone or schedule a visit with one of our board-certified genetic counselors.

 Mammograms matter...
every woman, every year!

Insurance Coverage and Financial Concerns

Exams are most often covered by insurance, as long as they are clinically indicated. Please contact your insurance carrier if you have questions. We recognize that financial concerns may prevent some patients from seeking necessary healthcare exams. We pride ourselves on being sympathetic and flexible. We offer a dedicated financial navigator, as well as assistance with pre-authorization and any necessary insurance appeals after the exam is completed. If you have financial concerns or need additional guidance on how to

Speak with your insurance company about your exam, please call our Patient Care Coordination line.

Locations

Invision Sally Jobe offers convenient locations throughout the Denver metro area. Visit www.invisionsallyjobe.com to find the location nearest you.

Why Invision Sally Jobe?

Every Invision Sally Jobe breast imaging site is a National Quality Measures for Breast Centers® (NQMBC) Certified Quality Breast Center of Excellence™. This designation is awarded to facilities

that consistently demonstrate excellence in patient care and adherence to the highest clinical quality standards. Invision Sally Jobe is the only breast network in Denver metro area to earn this distinction.

Invision Sally Jobe is also an American College of Radiology (ACR) Breast Imaging Center of Excellence and fully certified by the FDA.

For more information about our commitment to quality, please visit www.invisionsallyjobe.com.

To schedule an appointment, call 720.493.3700.

For other inquiries, call our Patient Care Coordination line at 720.493.3459 or email pcc@riaco.com.

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