

Mammography, breast ultrasound and biopsy

Patient instructions

This procedure examines the breasts for tumours.

How to prepare for the examination?

The examination does not require any preparation from you.

How is the examination done?

The examination usually involves taking x-rays of both breasts from two different directions. During the imaging, the breast is pressed between two plastic plates. The compression needs to be firm, to make the images accurate. After reviewing the images, the Radiologist may palpate the breasts.

In some cases additional pictures will be taken or an ultrasound examination will be performed. Breast biopsy may also be taken during the ultrasound examination. So-called thin needle samples are taken from fluid filled cysts or axillary nodules as necessary. Coarse needle specimen of breast tumours is done under anesthesia. The examination takes about 20-30 minutes.

What about after the examination?

The breast may feel tender after examination. You will receive the test results from the referring doctor.