

# Having further tests after your initial breast screening

## Breast Imaging

Information for Patients

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### Introduction

This leaflet is to help you understand why you have been asked to come for a second appointment at the Breast Care Centre.

Some women have an abnormal result from their initial screening mammogram and it is necessary to investigate this by doing further tests. The abnormal result may be due to a normal or non-harmful change in your breast tissue, but we need to check that it is not a sign of cancer.

This second appointment may also be needed if you told the radiographer at your initial screening about a current problem that you have in relation to your breasts.

### What tests will I have at my second appointment?

During this appointment you will be assessed by the Breast Screening Team which includes radiologists, advanced practitioners, radiographers and breast care nurses.

You may need to have a breast examination, more mammograms and an ultrasound scan. We may also need to take a small sample of tissue (biopsy) from your breast using a needle. This sample will then be sent to a laboratory so it can be checked under a microscope.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have during your appointment.

### How long will it take?

This will vary for each patient, but your appointment could take between 1 to 3 hours, depending on which further tests are needed.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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## When will I get the results?

It may be possible to give you a final result during this visit.

If you have a biopsy during this appointment, you will need a further appointment to get your results, which will be arranged before you leave.

## What are the risks?

Most women who need more tests after breast screening are found not to have breast cancer. These women may experience unnecessary worry and some feel distress which affects their ability to do their normal day-to-day activities at the time.

About 4 out of 100 women are asked to come back for more tests after screening. Out of these 4 women, 1 will be found to have cancer. The rest will not have cancer and will go back to having screening invitations every 3 years.

X-rays can very rarely cause cancer. Having mammograms every 3 years for 20 years very slightly increases the chance of getting cancer over a woman's lifetime.

## Importance of checking your breasts regularly

Your breasts may change between routine screening appointments and cancer can still develop between mammograms. Mammograms do not find all cancers. Sometimes they cannot be seen on the mammogram, and very occasionally mammogram readers will miss a cancer on the X-ray. So it is important to check your breasts regularly to know what is normal for you. Please talk to your GP straight away if you notice any unusual changes.

## Contact details

If you have any questions please contact the breast care nurses. They are available Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm on **0116 250 2513** (an answer phone service is available but messages are only checked during working hours).

The Breast Screening Office can be contacted Monday to Thursday (8.15am to 5.45pm) and Friday (8.15am to 4.45 pm) on **0116 258 3644**.

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على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل  
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