BREAST IMAGING

Digital Mammography, Breast Ultrasound, Biopsies, MRI & PET/CT

INLAND IMAGING

At Inland Imaging, our specialty trained radiologists, nurses, and technologists make sure that you get detailed answers quickly and accurately. Because when it comes to your health, better answers can lead to better outcomes.

SCHEDULING: (509) 455.4455

BREAST IMAGING CENTER LOCATIONS

For a list of our breast imaging center locations, please refer to www.inlandimaging.com/locations. To find out more, talk with your doctor or call Inland Imaging at 509.363.7799.

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AN OVERVIEW OF BREAST IMAGING

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women today. It is estimated that one in seven women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Yet research shows the five-year relative survival rate for those who detect their breast cancer early is 82 percent.

Our Breast Imaging Program gives your doctor access to innovative technology, specialized expertise, and superior-quality images to uncover the critical information needed to accurately diagnose and effectively treat breast cancer.

The Most Advanced Imaging Technology

With our comprehensive mix of imaging modalities, we have the appropriate equipment and technology to get the job done — accurately, efficiently and skilfully.

- Screening and diagnostic digital mammography
- Breast ultrasound
- Positron Emission Mammography (PEM)
- Breast MRI
- Wire localization
- Stereotactic breast biopsy

Screening Mammography with CAD

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends a yearly screening mammogram for all women age 40 years and older. Mammography can be divided into two categories: screening and diagnostic. Your screening mammogram at Inland Imaging is performed by a qualified female technologist. The results of your examination are interpreted by a radiologist.

Computer aided detection (CAD) technology reviews a patient’s mammogram and evaluates it after the radiologist has made an initial interpretation. Studies show that CAD analysis can improve the detection of early cancer by as much as 8-10 percent. If the software detects any abnormalities on the mammogram image, it marks them. The radiologist then reviews the marked areas to determine if the areas are suspicious and require further evaluation.

Diagnostic Mammography

A diagnostic mammogram is a problem-solving mammogram which may involve additional views of the breast. This exam is performed by a technologist who consults directly with a radiologist to determine the best views needed to aid in the breast evaluation. This work-up will determine if further imaging is needed.

Digital Mammography — Screening, Diagnostic & Tomosynthesis

Both types of mammograms will be performed with digital technology — the latest innovation in breast imaging. The digital image is sent to a computer workstation instead of film. The workstation provides the radiologist with an ideal view and the ability to adjust the image in multiple ways, something that was not possible with film. Our technologists and breast imaging radiologists use low-dose radiation imaging techniques, Computer Aided Detection (CAD) and the most advanced digital mammography technologies available.

What is Tomosynthesis?

Breast tomosynthesis, also known as 3D mammography, represents a technological breakthrough in breast imaging that provides a clearer, more detailed and accurate view compared to digital mammography alone. Research on breast tomosynthesis consistently demonstrates both improved breast cancer detection rates, and a decrease in the need for additional follow-up exams.

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Answers you can trust and care you can count on.
3D Breast Cancer Detection

Conventional digital mammography produces one image of overlapping tissue, making it difficult to detect abnormalities. Breast tomosynthesis takes multiple images of the entire breast, allowing Inland Imaging’s breast imaging radiologists to see through layers of tissue to examine areas of concern from a variety of angles, one thin slice at a time.

*3D mammography screening research findings included:
  • A 41% increase in the detection of invasive breast cancers
  • A 29% increase in the detection of all breast cancers
  • A 15% decrease in women recalled for additional imaging
  • A 40% decrease in “false positives”

Breast Ultrasound

A breast ultrasound is useful in helping to determine if a suspicious area is a fluid-filled cyst or a solid mass that requires further testing. The tool may also be used to guide biopsies.

Breast Biopsies

A breast biopsy is a tissue sampling technique used to confirm or rule out the presence of breast cancer. Breast biopsies can be surgical or non-surgical; Inland Imaging specializes in non-surgical breast biopsies. Utilizing these methods benefits patients by decreasing recovery time and reducing scarring compared with surgical excisional biopsy. Ultrasound-guided core-needle biopsy is commonly used to evaluate suspicious masses within the breast, whether they can be felt during a clinical examination. An ultrasound probe is placed over the site and a radiologist guides a biopsy needle directly into the mass. Local anesthesia is used during this procedure.

Stereotactic biopsy uses a dedicated biopsy table combined with digital mammography to determine the exact biopsy location. Tissue samples are then extracted using a vacuum assisted biopsy instrument. A local anesthesia is used during this procedure so patients have minimal discomfort during and after procedure. Normal activity can usually resume the following day.

Breast Wire Localization

Using the appropriate imaging modality, a localization wire is placed in the breast to accurately target an abnormality for surgical removal. During surgery, surgeons can electronically access the images showing the placement of the wire. Imaging tests are done on the surgically excised specimen to verify removal of the abnormality and wire. Results are immediately phoned to the surgeon.

Breast MRI

Magnetic resonance breast imaging (breast MRI) has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) since 1991 for use as a supplement to mammography to help diagnose breast cancer. Unlike mammography, which uses low-dose X-rays to image the breast, MRI uses powerful magnetic fields and radio waves to create images of the breast. Biopsies may also be performed using breast MRI. MRI-guided breast biopsy is a fast, safe and easy way to find and biopsy breast abnormalities without putting women through unnecessary surgery. Our new state-of-the-art breast MRI system optimizes patient comfort, reduces unnecessary movement during the exam, and produces superior images. It also offers improved access for biopsies.

Patients undergoing a breast MRI exam lie face down on the MRI table which is specially configured so that the breasts are positioned to hang freely through two openings called breast coils. After images have been acquired and assessed with CAD, a radiologist reads and interprets the images.

Positron Emission Mammography (PEM)

Positron Emission Mammography (PEM), an advanced application of Positron Emission Tomography (PET), captures localized images of the breast, producing sharp, detailed images of breast lesions – as small as 1.5 mm. This information is valuable to aid in developing treatment options and surgical plans.

PEM or MRI?

The breast MRI is a standard in diagnostic imaging, but there may be circumstances in which a Positron Emission Mammography (PEM) test is a better option. To determine if a PEM test is an appropriate alternative, your physician will consider the following:

• PEM is a good option for a patient who has a large body habitus and cannot fit in an MRI machine, has a pacemaker or other metallic implants, or is claustrophobic.
• PEM can be helpful in patients with breast implants.
• PEM is less susceptible to the hormonal effects of the menstrual cycle.
• PEM can be useful to solve complex MRI findings.
• The higher sensitivity of PEM makes it an effective tool in the evaluation of DCIS (ductal carcinoma in situ), a common form of non-invasive breast cancer.

The Region’s Breast Imaging Experts

Each of our 10 breast imaging radiologists is board-certified.
• Our physicians are knowledgeable and experienced in their field, and they keep current of the latest technological developments and clinical research.
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