



3D Mammography

(Digital Tomosynthesis)

Waverly Health Center (WHC) offers 3D mammography, the biggest advancement in breast cancer detection in over 30 years. It is the most accurate screening available.

3D mammography lets the radiologist see the breast more clearly, giving them more confidence to rule out non-cancerous tumors.

In the past, follow-up visits may have been needed to come to this same conclusion. Lowering the “call-back” worry is just one of the many benefits of this machine.

What is a 3D mammography exam?

3D mammography is much like a yearly mammogram, but more accurate in early detection. It works by taking many images of your breast from a lot of angles.


Then, a computer makes a 3D picture of your breast tissue in one millimeter slices. Our radiologists can look at the data, one slice at a time.

What are the benefits?

With normal digital mammography, the radiologist views all of the overlapped tissues of the breast in one flat, 2D picture. In some cases, this can give the illusion of an abnormality even though the breast is normal. It can also mask a tumor. By looking at the breast tissue in slices, the radiologist can give a better assessment.

3D mammography has a 25% improvement in total cancer detection rates and finds 40% more invasive cancers than normal mammography. This means there is less chance of being called back for a “second look” mammogram because of overlapped normal structures. The “false positive” rates are reduced by up to 40%.





The American Cancer Society urges all women get yearly mammograms starting at age 40.

Talk with your doctor earlier if you have family history of breast cancer. Our staff will guide you through the whole process.

What should I expect?

3D mammography compliments the standard 2D exam and is performed at the same time, with the same system. There is no extra compression and it only takes a few seconds longer for each view. 3D mammography is safe and effective for patients.

Who can have this exam?

It is approved for all women who would be undergoing a standard mammogram, for both screening and diagnostic exams.

Will my insurance cover this procedure?

Check with your insurance provider.

