

# Digital Mammography

MORE THAN 200,000 WOMEN WILL BE diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States this year, making it the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women. Early detection of any breast abnormalities can greatly reduce your risk of getting the cancer.

That's why for women over the age of 40, Dr. Anne Walker, a radiologist at TGMC, recommends breast self-exams, clinical breast exams and annual mammograms. For over 35 years, radiologists have relied on screen-film mammography. This is the mammogram most women are familiar with. X-rays produce an image of each breast directly onto film, which radiologists examine for abnormalities.

Thanks to technological advancements, full-field digital mammography is now available in several regions across the United States. TGMC also features this state-of-the-art mammography technology.

Unlike film mammography, digital mammography takes an electronic image of the breast and stores it directly in a computer, allowing the recorded data to be enhanced, magnified or manipulated for further evaluation. The electronic image can then be printed on film, if need be. According to Dr. Walker, "A digital mammogram is faster, more comfortable for the patient and provides much better image quality for better early detection." Digital mammography also allows improvement in image storage and transmission because images can be stored and sent electronically.

Digital mammography also features lower doses of radiation than traditional film mammography. While the amounts of radiation women are exposed to with film mammography are small, less radiation is always a benefit to our health.

This advanced digital technology also identifies abnormalities within the breasts more clearly than traditional film mammography.

For more information about mammography services at the Women's Imaging and Breast Center at TGMC, call 985-873-4616, or log on to [www.tgmc.com](http://www.tgmc.com).

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## SOME BENEFITS OF DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY:

- Improved contrast between dense and non-dense breast tissue
- Faster image acquisition (less than a minute)
- Shorter exam time (approximately half that of film-based mammography)
- Easier image storage
- Physician manipulation of breast images for more accurate detection of breast cancer
- Ability to correct under- or over-exposure of films without having to repeat mammograms
- Transmittal of images over phone lines or a network for remote consultation with other physicians

