

Breast Imaging Services



When it comes time for a mammogram, Hillcrest Hospital has the crucial components that women need to get the highest quality care and most accurate diagnosis:

- Physician expertise
- State-of-the-art imaging equipment
- Exams by skilled, caring professionals
- Follow-up procedures when necessary

That's what you'll find at Hillcrest Hospital's Breast Imaging Services. Hillcrest's capabilities go far beyond what is offered at mobile mammography vans and individual doctors' offices.

Physician Expertise

The breast imaging experts at Hillcrest are led by a highly experienced radiologist Melissa Frankel, MD, who is board-certified with extensive advanced training in Breast Imaging.

At Hillcrest, all mammography radiologists are board certified and have specialty training in Breast Imaging.

Accreditation: A Sign of Excellence

Hillcrest is fully accredited in all areas of Breast Imaging by the American College of Radiology and also meets all the requirements of the FDA's Mammography Quality Standards Act, so you know you are getting top-quality services.

Digital Mammography: State-of-the-Art Imaging

Technology has raised the standards of imaging quality. All breast imaging equipment at Hillcrest Hospital is digital (computer-based), rather than traditional mammography equipment. Digital mammography (DM) creates high-resolution images that are exceptionally clear and detailed.

Digital images allow the radiologist to identify and diagnose extremely small

masses/lumps and tiny deposits of calcium (calcification).

Digital mammograms contribute to earlier detection, more accurate diagnosis and better overall patient care. Digital mammography may lower radiation dose, especially in patients with dense tissue.

With digital mammography, the breast images are captured and displayed within seconds, shortening your appointment time significantly.

Types of Mammography

There are two types of mammography: screening and diagnostic.

- *Screening mammography* is used to look for breast changes in women who do not have any sign of breast cancer.
- *Diagnostic mammography* is used to evaluate changes in the breast found during a screening mammogram.

In addition, diagnostic mammograms are used to check for breast cancer after a mass/lump or other sign of the disease has been found, such as nipple discharge, thickening or changes in the size or shape of the breast.

Positioning for screening and diagnostic mammograms are the same. Hillcrest's breast imaging technologists are gentle and skillful in positioning the breast for the best image and least discomfort for the patient.

Additional Breast Imaging

If a mammogram looks suspicious, further imaging will be done. However, all abnormal findings are not necessarily breast cancer. They may be cysts, benign masses/lumps or calcification.

If additional tests are needed in order for the radiologist to make a diagnosis, breast ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or both, may be performed.

Hillcrest's Breast Imaging Services offers

a brand new MRI scanner that uses the latest specially designed equipment for breast imaging.

Follow-up Biopsies

A biopsy is done when a mammogram, breast ultrasound or breast MRI shows signs of an abnormality that needs further diagnosis. Biopsies are performed by a radiologist specializing in breast imaging, a radiology nurse and a technologist.

A biopsy involves removing a small amount of breast tissue so that it can be examined under a microscope, which allows doctors (pathologists) to determine whether the mass/lump is cancerous.

The tissue is removed through a large needle, which must be carefully placed at the exact location of the abnormal tissue. At Hillcrest, this precise placement is achieved using one of three high-technology methods: stereotactic mammography, ultrasound or MRI.

Scheduling an Appointment

To schedule an appointment for a screening or diagnostic mammogram, please call 216.636.8000. A physician's order will be required at the time of your appointment.

Same-Day Mammograms

If you have a physician's order for a screening mammogram, same-day appointments are sometimes available. Please call 440.312.3480 for more information and to schedule a same-day appointment.

Location and Parking

Breast Imaging Services is located in the Main Building of Hillcrest Hospital, adjacent to the Atrium.

Valet parking is available at the hospital. There is also free outdoor parking and free garage parking that is just a two- or three-minute walk from the Atrium.