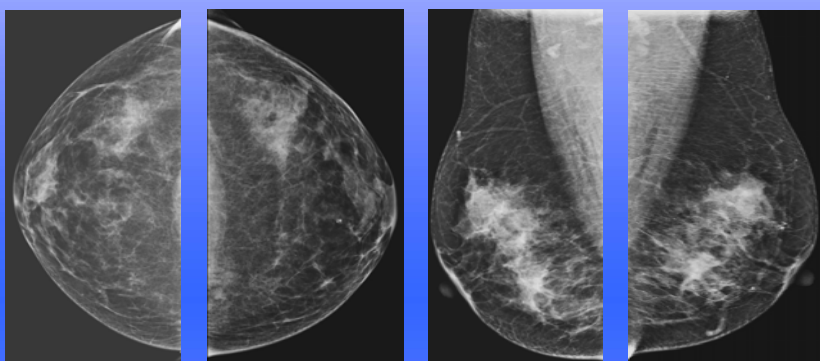


## *What is the difference between a screening and a diagnostic mammogram?*

Screening mammography is an x-ray examination of the breast in a woman who has no signs or symptoms of breast cancer. Diagnostic mammography is the same exam but is prompted in order to evaluate a specific complaint or abnormality detected by the patient or her physician, in addition to the rest of the breast tissue.



A diagnostic exam is scheduled differently because the radiologist is involved at the time of the exam. After the technologist is finished obtaining initial images, the radiologist checks them as the patient waits. If any additional imaging is required, we make every effort to obtain it at that time.

Patient's that have a personal history of breast cancer or are returning for a short interval follow-up to an abnormal mammogram are also scheduled as diagnostic exams. These exams are not checked at the time of the exam but are evaluated on the following day by our radiologist.

## *Why did my annual screening mammogram get converted to a diagnostic mammogram?*

A screening mammogram may get changed to a diagnostic mammogram because the woman or her physician indicates that there is an area of concern in the breast. This could be focal pain, a lump, bloody discharge or a change in the skin of the breast.

A diagnostic call back is performed when the radiologist, after reading the images from the patient's screening exam, detects an area of change or concern that requires additional imaging. The patient is contacted by SRC in order to schedule an additional appointment to evaluate the area completely.



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