

WHAT IS THE AURORA BREAST MRI?

Your doctor has referred you for a breast MRI exam using the Aurora®1.5T Dedicated Breast MRI System. The Aurora System is the only commercially available, FDA-cleared MRI system designed specifically for 3D bilateral breast imaging. Its unique technology provides high quality images that assist your physician in making the most accurate diagnosis.

This system is intended exclusively for breast imaging, designed for a woman's comfort. The Aurora System has a uniquely contoured examination table where you lay face down, with both breasts suspended away from the chest, without compression.

Additionally, you enter the Aurora System feet first, thus the feeling of claustrophobia is greatly reduced.



MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

You have been referred for an Aurora Breast MRI exam

Questions and Answers
on your upcoming diagnostic exam



www.bostonbdc.com

1.800.476.0577

Fax: 617.553.5353

165 Worcester Street (Route 9)
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481



WHAT IS MRI?

MRI is a sophisticated technology that stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. By using a computer, a magnetic field and radio waves (instead of x-rays), the MRI produces detailed images of the soft tissues in the body—from any angle and with great clarity. It is a vital diagnostic tool in breast health, when used in conjunction with mammography and ultrasound. The increased level of detail that MRI offers helps in making more informed diagnoses.

MRI technology has been in clinical use for over 30 years, providing information to physicians to help in the early diagnosis and treatment of disease.

The technology has been used successfully in breast imaging and is playing an increasingly important role in earlier diagnostic accuracy.



WHY DO PHYSICIANS RECOMMEND MRI?

MRI (especially dedicated breast MRI) is an ideal instrument for:

- Monitoring of high-risk patients
- Surgical planning
- Staging of breast cancer and treatment planning
- Post-surgery and post-radiation follow-up
- Evaluating dense breast tissue
- Evaluating breast implant integrity and detecting cancer in women with breast augmentation

WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT DURING YOUR EXAMINATION?

The Aurora System is designed specifically for your comfort. As you learned earlier, you will lie on your stomach with your breasts placed through the openings of the contoured examination table. Unlike mammography, your breasts are not compressed. Your breasts will suspend away from your chest, therefore you should feel no discomfort. You will enter into the machine feet first, virtually eliminating the feeling of claustrophobia.

To begin, the technologist will place a temporary IV for the contrast enhancement agent, gadolinium. This agent is administered to help highlight various structures in the breast tissue. An initial scan is taken. Next, the technologist will inject the contrast and the final ten minutes of scanning will occur.

For best results, you should lie very still, relax and breathe normally. That's it. The exam lasts 20 to 30 minutes, and you will be able to communicate with the technologist at all times.

WHAT PREPARATION IS NECESSARY?

There are no special preparations for the MRI. You can eat and drink as you normally would. You can also engage in regular activities and take any prescription medications.

Simply arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. You will be asked to change into a gown and remove all metallic objects – such as jewelry, glasses, hairpins and removable dentures – since anything that contains metal may distort MRI signals.

Please be sure to inform the technologist if you have any metal implants, cardiac pacemaker or other metal objects.

The technologist will have a complete checklist of items that must be removed. In addition, the technologist will perform a sample blood test (finger stick) to check your glomerular filtration rate (GFR). Your GFR must be at or above the required level for the scan to be performed.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EXAM?

There are no side effects with MRI. You can continue your normal activities as soon as the exam is over. Your breast MRI images will be interpreted by the radiologist and a report will be sent to your physician. We hope this information is helpful in briefly describing your exam. It is our goal to make your experience with breast MRI a positive one.

Naturally, if you have any questions or concerns about your breast health, please contact your physician.