Is 3D mammography better than 2D?

Mammography is the standard for breast cancer detection. Conventional 2D digital mammography produces high-definition images that help your doctor see if there are any abnormalities.

In certain situations, however, the 3D image has some advantages. For example, if you have dense breast tissue, if you feel a lump, or if you are at high risk for breast cancer, 3D mammography may be a better option due to improved diagnostic accuracy.

It’s best to talk with your doctor about your individual situation and personal needs and expectations.
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A New Option in Breast Imaging – Only at McLaren Port Huron

Tomosynthesis 3D imaging is a revolutionary screening and diagnostic tool designed for early detection of breast cancer.

What is 3D mammography?
Three-dimensional (3D) mammography is used as a supplement to 2D mammography. It uses a different kind of technology, called tomosynthesis, to take high-definition images of the breast in thin layers from multiple angles. The system produces images that represent thin slices of the breast, allowing the radiologist to view slices one millimeter at a time with clarity never before possible.

At McLaren Port Huron, two of the 2D mammography units also have 3D capabilities.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of 3D mammography?

Advantages
› Provides a more comprehensive image, which can detect cancer at an earlier stage, particularly in women with dense breast tissue.
› Reduces false positives sparing you the worry and expense of coming back for follow-up tests.

Disadvantages
› Not yet accepted by all insurance plans. You may need to pay a higher out-of-pocket expense for the exam.
› More costly than 2D mammography.

May I choose to receive a 3D screening mammogram even if my doctor doesn’t order one?
Yes, you can choose to receive a 3D mammogram, but you should first check whether your insurance plan will pay for it. You also should discuss your options with your doctor.

Will my insurance pay for a 3D mammogram?
Some insurers will pay for 3D mammography, some will pay only in certain situations, and some will not pay at all. Please check with your health insurance plan before your mammogram, to make sure you understand your payment responsibilities.

How do I schedule my mammogram?
Your doctor has recommended you have your mammogram at McLaren Port Huron. We offer mammography services in Women’s Wellness Place, recognized as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence since 2009 by the American College of Radiology.

Call (810) 985-2663 to schedule your mammogram. When scheduling, let us know whether you are going to have a 2D or 3D mammogram.

Women’s Wellness Place also offers general well-care, annual gynecologic and breast exams, family planning counseling and lab tests.

For some women, 3D mammography has many advantages.
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