

3D Mammography

Why 3D?

What's the difference?

What is 3D mammography?

It is an advanced screening and diagnostic tool designed to improve early breast cancer detection. (It is also referred to as breast tomosynthesis.)

Why 3D?

- It improves breast cancer detection by up to 40%.
- It reduces the chance of call-backs for follow-up imaging by up to 40%.
- It is particularly beneficial for women with dense breasts or with a personal or family history of breast cancer.

What's the difference – 2D vs. 3D?

Image – 3D provides a clearer, more detailed picture of the breast tissue.

- 2D produces 2 single images of the breast.
- 3D produces multiple thin images of the breast. This shows greater detail and can uncover cancers hidden in a 2D image by overlapping tissue.

Exam time – 3D exam time is nearly the same as for 2D.

X-ray exposure – Nearly the same for 2D and 3D.

What is the cost?

Annual screening mammography is a covered benefit under most health insurance plans (including under the Affordable Care Act) and Medicare.

Furthermore, 3D screening mammography is:

- fully covered by most Medicare plans.
- fully covered by some private health insurances.
- partially covered by some private health insurances; some patients may need to pay about \$60 out-of-pocket for 3D screening mammography.

Ask your insurance provider or we can help verify your coverage.

Questions? Ask the registrar, your mammography X-ray technologist and/or discuss with your physician or healthcare provider to determine what is best for you.

Visit stlukes-stl.com/mammogram for more information about 3D mammography and other breast health information.



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