

The following locations offer diagnostic mammography and biopsy:

CMC-Morrocroft

4525 Cameron Valley Parkway, Suite 1000
Charlotte, NC 28211
704.365.0343

CMC-Northcross

16455 Statesville Road, Suite 110
Huntersville, NC 28078
704.895.3445

CMC-Union Medical Plaza

1550 Faulk Street, Suite 1200
Monroe, NC 28112
704.292.2272

Medical Center Plaza

1001 Blythe Boulevard, Suite 103
Charlotte, NC 28203
704.355.6200

Morehead Medical Plaza

1025 Morehead Medical Drive, Suite 150
Charlotte, NC 28204
704.831.4200

Pineville Medical Plaza

10650 Park Road, Suite 280
Charlotte, NC 28210
704.540.9299

University Medical Park

101 W.T. Harris Boulevard, Suite 2122-A
Charlotte, NC 28262
704.863.6148

www.charlotteradiology.com



Breast Calcifications

providing the perfect balance of health and spirit.

Breast cancer is the second most common form of cancer in women, affecting one in every eight women in the United States. At Charlotte Radiology, we believe the key to beating this statistic and detecting breast cancer early is to perform monthly self-breast exams and schedule a yearly, quality mammogram. Our impressive staff of board-certified physicians and female technologists specializes in mammography and have all of the latest technologies at their fingertips—such as digital mammography and the first and only MRI dedicated to breast imaging in the Carolinas. All of these things, combined with compassionate care, have allowed us to be the provider of choice for more than 85,000 women a year.

Breast calcifications

Breast calcifications are calcium deposits within the breast. Extremely common in women of all ages, calcifications are typically found during a screening mammogram, appearing as white spots similar to grains of salt. They usually cannot be felt.

There are two kinds of breast calcifications:

- Macrocalcifications appear as large white dots or dashes and are almost always noncancerous.
- Microcalcifications appear as very fine white specks and are typically noncancerous. A radiologist will determine if the microcalcifications are suspicious and if a biopsy is needed.

Noncancerous calcifications can be caused by many different things such as:

- fibrocystic changes
- previous injury to the breast
- fibroadenomas (noncancerous growths)
- aging of the arteries in the breast
- calcium within the fluid of a noncancerous cyst
- dilated milk ducts

When irregular calcifications are discovered

Most calcifications seen during a mammogram are benign and can be recognized as such due to their appearance. However, if certain patterns—such as tight clusters with irregular shapes—are found, they may need to be analyzed more closely. Your radiologist may suggest a diagnostic mammogram with magnification views.

Magnification views allow the radiologist to analyze the shape and distribution of the calcifications within the breast and often determine whether calcifications are benign or cancerous.

If the radiologist feels strongly that breast calcifications are benign, then a biopsy may not be necessary, but routine follow-up mammograms are important to allow continued monitoring of the calcifications over time. If the radiologist wants to take an even closer look, a needle biopsy is necessary to analyze the significance of the calcifications. At Charlotte Radiology, we realize a needle biopsy may be an emotionally stressful experience. **Our group is trained to make this safe, minimally invasive procedure as comfortable and quick as possible.**

Schedule your appointment with Charlotte Radiology

Appointments are available Monday through Friday. A physician referral is not necessary for a screening mammogram, however you must have a physician for us to send your results. A physician referral is needed for a diagnostic mammogram. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment to allow time for patient registration.

704.367.2232 • toll-free 877.362.2232

For more information

If you have questions about any of our procedures or for directions, please visit our comprehensive website:

www.charlotteradiology.com

May we also suggest:

www.breastcancer.org
www.cancer.org
www.cancer.gov
www.komen.org