

***Schedule your appointment with  
Charlotte Radiology.***

Any and all breast health concerns should be discussed with your primary physician first. Our breast services are completely comprehensive, from diagnostic mammography and breast MRI to needle biopsy and more.

For annual screening mammograms, no physician's referral is required. And breast experts still agree that 40 is the age to start. **Please make a point to schedule screening mammograms every year, and urge all of the women in your life to do the same.**

**704.367.2232**

**877.362.2232 (toll-free)**

**For more information about Charlotte Radiology,  
visit us online at [CharlotteRadiology.com](http://CharlotteRadiology.com).**



**BREAST MRI**

**Screening Saves.**



### **What is Breast MRI?**

Breast MRI is a sophisticated technology that uses a computer, magnetic field and radio waves (instead of X-rays) to produce images of the soft tissues in the body. When used in conjunction with screening and diagnostic mammography, this noninvasive technology can provide valuable information for the detection and characterization of breast disease. Breast MRI does not replace mammography—it is a different imaging technique that provides additional information and a list of benefits:

- Higher sensitivity than any other modality in detecting invasive breast cancer
- Optimal surgical and treatment planning, revealing size and extent of tumors prior to surgery
- Additional safeguard for patients at high risk for breast cancer
- Particularly useful for diagnosis of breast implant rupture
- Proficient in evaluation of dense breast tissue

### **What to expect.**

A breast MRI does not require compression of the breasts, so you should not experience any discomfort. A female technologist will position you for the scan, lying on your stomach with arms overhead. Your breasts will be positioned into a cushioned opening containing a special breast-imaging coil. You will enter the machine headfirst.

Most patients receive an injection of contrast enhancement called gadolinium during the exam. This helps the radiologist define and characterize structures in breast tissue. It's a small injection administered through a vein in the hand or arm. You will be instructed to relax, lie very still and breathe normally. Patients can expect to be in the scanner for 20-25 minutes. There are typically no side effects during or after the MRI, so you can resume normal activities afterward.

### **Preparing for your appointment.**

- Breast MRI should be scheduled 7 – 10 days from the start of your menstrual cycle, as breast tissue appears most normal during this time.
- On the day of your appointment, bring your insurance card, valid ID and, if applicable, any prior breast films (from another radiology office).
- Arrive 30 minutes early and allow two hours for your full appointment.
- If you suffer from minor claustrophobia or anxiety, you may want to ask your physician for a mild sedative. If sedation is necessary, we require you to arrive one hour early with medication in hand and bring someone to drive you home.
- All metals (such as jewelry or bobby pins) will need to be removed before your scan, so consider leaving them at home.
- Be sure to hydrate prior to your exam (water is best). You are free to eat, but a light meal might be preferred, since you will lie on your stomach for your scan.
- If any of the following pertain to you, please call 704.831.4200 so that we may prepare accordingly for your appointment:
  - Cardiac pacemaker
  - Artificial heart valve prostheses
  - Aneurysm clips
  - Eye implants, metal ear implants or metal implants of any kind that are activated electronically, magnetically or mechanically
  - Shrapnel or non-removed bullet
  - Pregnancy
  - Weight exceeding 350 lbs
  - Claustrophobia
  - Any metal puncture(s) or fragment(s) in the eye