WELLSPAN® Imaging

A service of York Hospital

Imaging Patient Education

What you should know about your ***Breast Needle Localization Exam.***

Purpose:

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses radio waves and a strong magnetic field to provide clear and detailed images of internal organs and tissues. The breast needle localization exam is performed to localize any abnormality in the breast by placing a needle into the area using MRI guidance.

Preparation:

- You will be asked to complete a medical history and screening form which will be reviewed with you by a staff member.
- You will be asked to remove anything that might decrease the MR images including hairpins, jewelry, eyeglasses and hearing aids.
- Since the MRI scanner is a very large magnet, it is important for us to know of any metal implants/devices you may have in your body.
- It is important to bring along any implant and/or medical device cards at the time of your appointment (example heart stents, eye/ear implants, etc.)
- We will use these cards to verify the safety of your implant.
- If you do not have information about your implant it may cause a significant delay in your exam.
- Be aware there are some implants such as pacemakers that are not MRI safe.
- If you have an implant or medical device that is thought to be unsafe, we will not be able to perform the exam. Your doctor may recommend a different exam.
- It is important to tell a staff member if you are pregnant.
- While MRI does not use any ionizing radiation (x-rays), MRI must be used cautiously in the early stages of pregnancy.
- You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam.
- Your valuables will be locked in a secure location during your exam.
- Most breast imaging requires a contrast agent.
- Prior to entering the room a small needle is placed in an arm that connects to plastic tubing. The contrast is injected.

Procedure: What to Expect:

- You will verify your name, date of birth and exam you will be having performed.
- Once we determine you may safely enter the magnet, you will be taken to the scanning room.

- You will be asked to lie on your stomach with your breasts positioned through a special piece of equipment called a coil.
- Cushions will be provided for your comfort.
- You will hear different sounds during your exam which is normal.
- You will be offered ear plugs or headphones to listen to music for your comfort.
- A squeeze ball will be placed in your hand to alert the technologist if you need assistance during the study.
- You will be instructed to hold very still.
- Movement during the exam may cause blurred images that may need to be repeated.
- Compression will be applied firmly to your breast during positioning. During the compression, you may let the technologist know if the compression becomes uncomfortable.
- Even though the technologist will be in another room during the scan, he/she will be able to hear you and speak to you if needed.
- The radiologist will start the needle localization exam.
- The radiologist will numb the skin using an injection of anesthetic.
- When the abnormality is localized the radiologist will place the needle.
- You may feel some discomfort and pressure during the placement of the needle.
- Some surgeons will require the radiologist to inject blue dye into the breast tissue using the wire that is already placed.
- This stains the tissue as a visual aid for the surgeon during the excision.
- Additional images will be taken to view the contrast agent and confirm the placement of the needle.
- The average exam lasts approximately one hour.

After the Test:

- You will be assisted to a sitting position where the nurse will clean and dress the area.
- The small needle in your arm will be removed prior to leaving the scanning room.
- You may change into your clothing and gather your valuables.
- A staff member will take you to the next area to continue your procedure, if required.
- Your exam will be evaluated by a radiologist and the report will be sent to your physician.

Imaging Department Phone Number:
(717) 851-4624