



MedStar Montgomery Medical Center Breast Health & Imaging Center
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AUTHORIZATION TO PERFORM MAMMOGRAPHY FOR PATIENTS WITH BREAST IMPLANTS

Your physician has recommended that you have a mammogram. Mammography is currently the best method of early detection for a change in the breast that cannot be felt or to help clarify a change in the breast that can be felt.

Breast implants require a special type of exam that includes more pictures than a regular mammogram. This is because the implant obscures some of the breast tissue. In most cases, the implant will be gently moved back and out of the way of the other tissue for some of the films, while other films will include the implant in the film.

As with all mammograms, some compression will be applied. In the pictures with the implants, compression will only be used to prevent motion from occurring, which could blur information. In the pictures to see the tissue in front of the implant, compression will be applied normally, possibly causing some slight discomfort, for a few seconds, as is usual with any type of mammogram.

Problems caused by compression or moving of the implant are extremely rare, but cannot be excluded, especially for older or weakened implants. It is not unusual for an implant rupture that was not felt by you or your physician to first be noticed on a mammogram. Mammography is one of the tools often used to help determine if there is a rupture.

Since the risk of rupture is negligible and the risk of breast cancer is far greater, we hope that you understand the benefit of early detection and proceed with your mammogram.

“Although I have read the advisory and I am aware that there is a possible risk of damage to my implants, I believe in the value of early detection and I agree to proceed and have the mammogram done.”

Patient Signature _____ Date: _____

Technologist/Radiologist Signature _____