



Contrast-Enhanced Breast MR Patient Information

Dear Patient,

We have been asked to do a magnetic resonance (MR) imaging examination of your breast. This specialized study is usually done for a breast lump or mammographic finding thought to possibly be cancer or to define the extent of a known breast tumor or to further evaluate breast tissue if suspicion of cancer cannot be ruled out on mammogram and/or ultrasound.

This letter informs you of some of the advantages and limitations of this examination.

Advantages and Limitations:

Breast MR can often detect breast cancers down to about 3 to 5 mm in diameter (the size of a pea), even when mammograms or physical examinations are normal; however, tumors smaller than 3 mm can be missed. Rarely, larger cancers which do not take up the MR contrast material well may not be detected. Also, some benign breast disorders may look like cancer and may then require ultrasound or biopsy for final diagnosis.

Some forms of noninvasive breast cancer called ductal carcinoma *in situ* (DCIS) or lobular cancer *in situ* (LCIS) may not be detected by this examination, but may be seen on mammograms or on the pathology slides from a biopsy or surgery. Therefore, mammograms remain very important for diagnosis and especially follow up.

MR of the breast, when used together with mammography and breast examination, can help improve breast cancer diagnosis. As a result, insurance coverage for cancer-related breast MR has been generally favorable.

This examination shows the lymph nodes under the arm and in the chest, although some of these may appear normal, they may still contain tumor when examined by the pathologist's microscope. High resolution ultrasound is usually done after the MR to check areas seen on the MR examination.

Your signature indicates that you have been informed of some of the potential limitations of breast MR. If you have any questions or reservations, please ask us. We will gladly answer your questions and provide references.

Sincerely,

Physicians of Medford Radiology Group, P.C.

Patient Signature

Date

Please print your name