



*Better
Together*

Patient information

Attending the Breast Assessment Clinic
Following your MRI scan

Breast Services Directorate

We understand that you may be feeling worried about being asked to attend the breast assessment clinic. We hope that the following information will be helpful. For most women called back for further investigations, nothing of concern will be found.

Why have I been called back?

You have been called back to the breast assessment clinic because your breast MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan did not give us enough information about a particular part of your breast. We therefore need to give you a more detailed examination before we can decide on a result. Most changes that show up on a breast MRI scan are not a cause for concern.

How many women are called back?

MRI is a very sensitive test. Because of this, about one out of every ten women who have a breast MRI scan will be asked to come back to our clinic for further tests. Most women who are called back will not have breast cancer.

What will happen at the clinic?

You can expect to have some or all of the following during your visit:

Breast X-rays (mammograms) - Further X-rays, taken in order to show part of your breast in more detail.

Breast examination - A specialist will ask you some questions about any previous breast problems and then examine your breasts.

Breast ultrasound - An ultrasound scan uses sound waves to provide a picture of the breast tissue. It is harmless and pain free and does not involve any X-rays. It is usually done at the same time as your breast examination.

Breast needle biopsy - It may be necessary for some women to have a small sample of tissue or cells taken from the breast. The result of the biopsy is usually available within fourteen days. You will be given an appointment to return for your result.

How long will I be at the clinic?

You may be at the clinic for up to three hours. Refreshments are available in the Linda McCartney Centre.

When will I get the results?

Most of these tests will be done during the same visit and unless you have a needle test, you will be given the results on the day. If however you do have a needle test, the sample will be sent to the lab and you will be given an appointment to return within fourteen days for your final result.

After this process, most women will be found not to have anything seriously wrong and will be discharged from the clinic and continue to be invited for screening.

Only a small number of women will need to actually come into hospital to have an operation. If this is the case, we will discuss your treatment plan at the results clinic.

We hope that this leaflet helps you to understand what goes on in the breast unit.

If you have any questions please ask the staff. They will be happy to answer any of your queries.

Further information:

Breast Unit

Tel: 0151 706 2920

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2920

Family History Clinic

Tel: 0151 706 2931

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2920.

Author: Breast Radiology Team

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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