

Breast Cancer Screening FAQ's: Before Making an Appointment

1. Why should I get a breast cancer screening?
 - a. Screening tests can find breast cancer before any symptoms arise
 - b. Early detection improves outcomes
2. What are breast cancer symptoms?
 - a. New lump in the breast or underarm
 - b. Thickening or swelling of part of a breast
 - c. Irritation or dimpling of breast skin
 - d. Redness or flaky skin in the nipple area or the breast
 - e. Pulling in of the nipple or pain in the nipple area
 - f. Nipple discharge other than breast milk, including blood
 - g. Any change in the size or the shape of the breast
 - h. Pain in any area of the breast
 - i. A diagnostic mammogram is needed if you have any of these symptoms
3. Can I attend if I have had an abnormal mammogram in the past?
 - a. Yes if the abnormal result was not breast cancer
 - b. If the result was breast cancer: see #5
4. Can I attend if I have a family history of breast cancer?
 - a. Yes if you do not have any breast cancer symptoms (see #2)
 - b. You should also talk to your primary care doctor or gynecologist
5. Can I attend if I am a breast cancer survivor?
 - a. Yes, if it has been more than 5 years since your diagnosis
 - b. No, if it has been less than 5 years since your diagnosis
6. What is the difference between a screening mammogram and a diagnostic mammogram?
 - a. Screening mammograms: used to find breast cancer in women with no symptoms
 - b. Diagnostic mammograms: used after abnormal results or after signs of breast cancer are found for a more detailed x-ray of the breast