

**PATIENT INFORMATION
CONTRAST-ENHANCED BREAST MRI**

Advantages and Limitations

Breast MRI can often detect breast cancers down to about 3 –5 mm in diameter (the size of a pea), even when mammograms or physical exam are normal; however, tumors smaller than 3mm can be missed. Rarely, larger cancers that do not take up the MRI 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 carcinoma *in situ* (LCIS) may not be detected by this exam, 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. MRI of the breast, when used together with mammography and breast exam, can help improve breast cancer diagnosis. As a result, insurance coverage for cancer-related breast MRI has been generally favorable.

This exam 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 MRI to check areas seen on the MRI exam. Your signature indicates that you have been informed of some of the potential limitations of breast MRI. If you have any questions or reservations, please ask us. We will gladly answer your questions and provide references.

Patient signature

Date

Please Print Your Name