

Breast implants: Your screening appointment explained



If you have a breast implant and have been invited for breast screening, you may not be sure whether this is suitable for you. This sheet gives you some information and advice.

The technique used to take a mammogram (breast X-ray) is different for women with implants, so it's vital that you confirm you have an implant before you're screened. Your local screening centre can then make sure your appointment is suitable for you. You'll be offered an appointment at either your local screening centre or mobile unit.

The aim of the breast screening programme is to find small cancers, so it's important the mammogram images show as much breast tissue as possible. Breast implants will usually hide some breast tissue – your screening result will only apply to the tissue shown on the images taken. There are, however, techniques which the mammographer can use to get the best possible result.

As explained in the information leaflet sent with your invitation letter (**Make time for breast screening**) mammograms do not find all cancers – a small number of cancers may not be seen on the mammograms.

The breast screening procedure for women with implants puts a very small amount of pressure (compression) on the breast, however, there is a very slight risk of damage to implants. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact your local screening centre who will provide more information on the procedure.

Breast screening does not involve a check on your implant. If you think you have a problem with one or both implants, please mention this before you're screened. Mammography might not be appropriate for you.

If you would like more information about your appointment, please contact your local breast screening centre where the staff will be happy to discuss this with you:

**North East of Scotland
Breast Screening Centre**
Telephone: 01224 550570