WHAT DOES MAMMOGRAPHY FOLLOW UP INVOLVE?

MAMMOGRAPHY & ULTRASOUND
Follow up typically begins with additional mammography images to get a closer look at the area. If the radiologist is unable to get sufficient information from these images, then ultrasound is often used to determine whether there is a fluid-filled cyst or a solid mass. The procedure is simple and most often painless.

MRI
MRI can provide enhanced imaging clarity and is often used to assess known or suspected breast cancer that isn’t clearly visible with other imaging methods. If an MRI is ordered for you, you’ll undergo a creatinine test to evaluate your kidney function. This helps to ensure the safety of using a gadolinium contrast solution, which helps to create the image clarity the radiologist will need to effectively assess your condition.

The scan itself takes 30-60 minutes, so plan around 60-90 minutes for the entire visit.

FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION
Although it’s used less often than core needle biopsy, fine needle aspiration is less invasive and can be performed in a provider’s office with a local anesthetic to sample a lump found during clinical breast examination.

CORE NEEDLE BIOPSY
Core needle biopsy is an accurate way to diagnose breast cancer when performed by an experienced radiologist. To biopsy nonpalpable masses, this procedure is done in a radiologist’s office so imaging can be used to pinpoint the area of concern.

SURGICAL BIOPSY
Surgical biopsy may be recommended in cases where the suspicious area cannot be clearly visualized using imaging technology. The surgeon usually removes the entire tumor and some surrounding tissue, providing the most complete information possible about the tumor.

REGULAR BREAST CANCER SCREENING
gives you the best odds of beating breast cancer and having more treatment options.

The American Cancer Society reports that women who are exposed to mammography screening are at a 20–40% lower risk of dying of breast cancer.

20-40%
STARTING AT AGE 40

FOR YOU–AND THEM