

MammoPlus®

Frequently Asked Questions - For Patients

What is MammoPlus®?

MammoPlus® includes a screening mammogram PLUS a risk assessment to estimate your patient's chances of developing breast cancer in the future.

What is the cost for MammoPlus®?

There is no additional cost for MammoPlus®. It costs the same as a traditional mammogram.

How does MammoPlus® estimate a woman's risk of developing breast cancer?

In addition to digital mammography, MammoPlus® includes a risk assessment questionnaire that is based on the National Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool. This tool is used to estimate a woman's chances of developing invasive breast cancer. The Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool is designed to calculate five year and lifetime risks for developing breast cancer.

What is the benefit of a cancer risk assessment?

MammoPlus® uses a patient's lifetime risk as the trigger for deciding who should look further at their risk. (Note: We also consider a patient's five year risk for these under age 50.) According to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) Guidelines, women at increased risk for breast cancer may benefit from life saving cancer prevention and risk reduction strategies such as modified surveillance, chemoprevention, and prophylactic surgery, depending on their cancer risk levels. Identifying women at increased risk for cancer will allow us to offer them risk-specific interventions that have been shown to improve early cancer detection, better treatment and improved outcomes in women at increased risk of cancer.

What are the limitations of the Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool?

The Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool is not perfect and can overestimate or underestimate the risk of breast cancer in some cases. This is why further risk evaluation with our genetic counselor or nurse practitioner are highly recommended; especially, if the risk assessment score is elevated. *Furthermore, if your MammoPlus® risk assessment reveals a low risk of breast cancer and you disagree, please contact our genetic counselor for a more detailed risk evaluation.*

What if my score puts me in the "high risk" category?

If your MammoPlus® risk assessment score requires further review, you and your referring physician will be alerted to your score right away. If requested, you will also receive a call from our genetic counselor who will discuss the results in more detail and answer any questions you have. If appropriate, you may also schedule an appointment with the RiskPlus™ program.

What is the RiskPlus™ program?

Our RiskPlus™ program is designed specifically for women noted to be at increased risk for developing breast cancer on the MammoPlus® Risk Assessment. The RiskPlus™ program is staffed by a board-certified genetic counselor and an advanced practice oncology nurse practitioner who work together to provide in-depth cancer risk assessment, education, genetic testing and a customized risk reduction management plan. They will also help coordinate and facilitate appointments as per your customized cancer prevention plan.

How do I contact the RiskPlus™ program?

If you would like to schedule an appointment or speak with Preethi Premkumar, our genetic counselor, please call 248-858-6487.