What is a 3D mammogram?
3D mammography is a new FDA-approved imaging technology designed for early breast cancer detection and is done along with a 2D mammogram.

During the 3D part of the exam, the X-ray arm sweeps in a slight arc over your breast, taking multiple breast images. A computer then produces a 3D image of your breast tissue in one millimeter slices, providing greater visibility for the radiologist to see the inside of the breast with greater detail. The radiologists can scroll through images of your entire breast like pages in a book.

The additional 3D images make it possible for a radiologist to gain a better understanding of your breast tissue during screening and the confidence to reduce the need for follow-up imaging.

What are the benefits of 3D mammography?
With conventional digital mammography, a radiologist is viewing all the complexities of your breast tissue in one flat image. Sometimes, breast tissue can overlap, giving the illusion of normal breast tissue looking like an abnormal area. By looking at the breast tissue in one millimeter slices, the radiologist can provide a more confident assessment.

In this way, 3D mammography enables radiologists to see cancers sometimes missed with 2D mammography. It also means there is less chance your doctor will call you back later for a “second look,” because now they can see breast tissue more clearly.

Who can have a 3D mammogram?
The exam is approved for all women who would be undergoing a standard mammogram, in both the screening and diagnostic setting. Emory offers 3D technology for all screening mammograms.

What should I expect during a 3D mammogram?
A 3D mammogram complements standard 2D mammography and is performed at the same time with the same system. No additional compression is required, and it only takes about four seconds longer.

Is 3D mammography covered by insurance? How much does it cost?
3D mammography is not yet covered by most insurance companies; however, Emory Healthcare is proud to offer it to patients receiving their annual screening mammogram at no additional charge above the cost of a traditional 2D digital mammogram.

3D mammograms are available at the following three locations:

Emory Breast Imaging Center located at Emory University Hospital Midtown
550 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Make an Appointment: 404-778-PINK (7465)

Emory Breast Imaging Center located at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University
1365 Clifton Road NE
Building C, 1st Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
Make an Appointment: 404-778-PINK (7465)

Center for Breast Care located at Emory Johns Creek Hospital
Emory Physicians Plaza
6335 Hospital Parkway, Suite 106
Johns Creek, GA 30097
Make an Appointment: 678-474-PINK (7465)

3D Mammography & YOU

Traditional 2D digital mammography creates a single image of the inside of the breast. Overlapping tissue can hide or mimic problems.

3D mammography allows radiologists to view 1 millimeter slices of the breast, providing a more detailed view of specific areas.

For more information about 3D mammography, call 404-778-7777 or visit emoryhealthcare.org/breast-health.