

Breast cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers in women. Earlier detection and improved treatment have resulted in decreasing death rates, but better methods of earlier detection may improve those rates even further. Breast MRI has emerged as a critical tool in the fight against breast disease.



In 2007, the American Cancer Society updated its guidelines for breast cancer screening, recommending an annual breast MRI exam *in addition* to mammography for women deemed as "high risk."



## THE AURORA® DEDICATED BREAST MRI SYSTEM

Am I a Candidate for a  
Breast MRI Exam?



[www.bostonbdc.com](http://www.bostonbdc.com)

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**Fax: 617.553.5353**

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## WHAT IS MRI?

MRI is a sophisticated technology that stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. By using a computer, a magnetic field and radio waves (instead of x-rays), the MRI produces detailed images of the soft tissues in the body—from any angle and with great clarity. It is a vital diagnostic tool in breast health when used in conjunction with mammography and ultrasound. The increased level of detail that MRI offers helps in making more informed diagnoses.

MRI technology has been in clinical use for over 30 years, providing information to physicians to help in the early diagnosis and treatment of disease.



The technology has been used successfully in breast imaging and is playing an increasingly important role in earlier diagnostic accuracy.

Breast MRI provides 3-D pictures of both breasts, the chest wall and the lymph nodes located under each arm. These high-resolution bilateral images have allowed specialists to make earlier and more accurate diagnoses. In addition, breast MRI does not require compression of the breast.

## SHOULD I HAVE A BREAST MRI?

The Aurora Breast MRI system is the only commercially available, FDA-cleared, MRI system designed specifically for 3D bilateral breast imaging.

Younger women and women who have dense breast tissue (less fat than glandular and connective tissue), can be difficult to image using mammography. Studies have shown that breast MRI is more effective in imaging dense breasts.

Review the Breast MRI Checklist to the right to help determine if you are a candidate.

**Naturally, if you have any questions or concerns about your breast health, please contact your physician.**

The American Cancer Society recommends that women at high risk for breast cancer add a MRI screening to their yearly mammogram. The following are criteria for women who may be at increased risk for breast cancer.

Check the box(es) that are appropriate for you, then bring this to your next appointment with your healthcare provider to discuss breast MRI.

- Do you have a personal or family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer?
- Have you been tested and found to have the BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation?
- Do you have a first-degree relative (parent, brother, sister, or child) with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation, and have not had genetic testing yourself?
- Have you had radiation to the chest between the ages of 10 and 30?
- Do you have Li-Fraumeni syndrome, Cowden syndrome, or Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba syndrome, or have one of these syndromes in first-degree relatives?
- Have you been told that you have a lifetime risk of breast cancer of 20% to 25% or greater, according to risk assessment tools based mainly on family history?
- Have you been told that you are at moderately increased lifetime risk (15% to 20%) for developing breast cancer? If yes, you should talk with your doctor about the benefits and limitations of adding a MRI screening to your yearly mammogram.

In addition, breast MRI is used for the following purposes:

- To evaluate implant integrity and detect cancer in women with breast augmentation
- To determine the extent of recently diagnosed cancer
- To monitor cancer therapy
- To assess cancer recurrence in breast cancer survivors