Services That Make The Difference

Timely Response
The Breast Center provides prompt diagnostic testing. The majority of women having diagnostic mammograms at the center will be invited to stay for a short period and receive their results during that visit. In cases where an additional mammogram, ultrasound or other testing is required, these tests can be performed, in most instances, during the same visit.

When a minimally invasive breast biopsy is needed, most patients can be scheduled within 24 to 48 hours. The results of this biopsy will be provided to the referring physician within a few days of the initial visit.

Expert Breast Care
Established in 1999, St. Peter’s Breast Center performs some 20,000 mammograms per year – more than any other facility in the region. Our staff is dedicated to providing Capital Region women with high quality services for the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast disease. St. Peter’s Breast Center is modeled after the nation’s leading breast care centers.

Comfortable Environment
At a time when a woman may feel most vulnerable, our goal is to provide an atmosphere of utmost caring and support. This private, dedicated space; the sensitivity of the staff trained in dealing with breast concerns; ease of scheduling; quick consultation; even the decor—all are specifically intended to reduce anxiety and make a woman feel as comfortable as possible.

For More Information

Contact St. Peter’s Breast Center
If you have questions, please feel free to call the Breast Center at 525-7536 from 7 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. To make an appointment, please call the Department of Medical Imaging at 525-1401 between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. A referral from your physician is necessary to make an appointment. In order to provide time for registration and changing, we request that you arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your appointment time.

Two Convenient Locations
St. Peter’s now offers breast health services at two convenient locations in Albany.

The Breast Center is located on the third floor of 317 S. Manning Boulevard on the St. Peter’s Hospital campus in Suite 305. The staff offers a full scope of services at this location.

Free parking is available in the outpatient parking garage. Valet parking is available at the hospital’s main entrance. For directions, please use our online interactive map at sphc5.org or please ask us.

The Breast Center’s Washington Avenue Mammography is located at 1365 Washington Avenue in Albany in Suite 202 of the medical building. The services offered at this location include screening mammography and DEXA bone density scans. Free parking is available in the parking lot. For directions, please ask us.
St. Peter’s Breast Center offers patients a level of breast care previously unavailable in the Capital Region.

The essence of the Breast Center is its combination of prompt care with the most modern, specialized breast-imaging technology and expertise. St. Peter’s Breast Center partners with patients and their physicians in the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast disease.

The center is committed to empowering its patients, enabling them to participate in decisions about their care. Most importantly, our goal is to ensure that patients who entrust their care to St. Peter’s Breast Center receive the highest level of diagnostic breast care available and maintain a winning edge in the fight against breast disease.

Mammographies are an important part of early breast cancer detection. These procedures can detect early signs of cancer that may be too small or subtle to feel. An annual mammogram is one of the best tools in the early detection of breast cancer.

In 2009, St. Peter’s Breast Center was named a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology (ACR). St. Peter’s is the first facility in the Capital Region to receive this designation. Recognition as a Center of Excellence is given to imaging centers that have achieved high practice standards in image quality, personnel qualifications, facility equipment, quality control procedures and quality assurance programs.

State-of-the-Art Technology

Digital Mammography

For faster and more accurate results, St. Peter’s now offers digital mammography in the Breast Center. Full field digital mammography is unparalleled in diagnostic breast care, offering superior image quality, enhanced ease of use and faster results. Improved diagnostic technology provides a better opportunity for early breast cancer detection. With early detection, patients have a better chance of leading long and productive lives.

Breast MRI

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning is very effective at detecting small breast cancers in younger women and for staging cancer development.

Information You Need to Know

What Can I Expect during Mammography?

A mammogram is a low dose X-ray exam that usually consists of two views of each breast. The breast is positioned on a dedicated Mammography System and firm pressure (compression) is applied to flatten the breast. Firm compression is needed to ensure that small abnormalities are not hidden.

Occasionally specialized magnification views or breast ultrasound may be required. Every woman’s breast tissue is different and these procedures may be required to complete our evaluation.

During the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., patients are given the option to obtain results prior to leaving our facility. However, this may involve a two-hour wait if our physicians are involved in a lengthy procedure. If your appointment is not during these times, or you prefer not to wait, the results will be mailed to you and your referring physician on the next business day.

How Do I Prepare?

• Please schedule your mammogram seven to 10 days after your menstrual cycle, when the breasts are least tender.
• If possible, avoid caffeine three to five days prior to your examination, as it can increase breast sensitivity.
• On the day of your mammogram, avoid deodorants, body powders or lotions which may interfere with breast images. For convenience, wear a two-piece outfit so you can undress from the waist up.
• If there is any possibility that you are pregnant or if you are nursing, please inform our staff prior to the examination.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We Need Your Previous Mammogram Films

If you have had previous mammograms at other facilities, it is very important that you bring the films with you at the time of your appointment. Please ask an out-of-town facility to send the films to you. If previous films are not available at the time of your appointment, your interpretation will be delayed until our physicians review the previous films.

Treatment/Intervention

Biopsy Procedures

The Breast Center also features dedicated breast ultrasound and the ability to perform highly accurate, image-guided, minimally invasive biopsy techniques. The most effective and least invasive diagnostic approach is determined for each patient. Stereotactic biopsy, ultrasound- and MRI-guided biopsy, and surgical biopsy procedures are available.

Breast Surgery

With state-of-the-art procedure rooms and experienced surgical teams, St. Peter’s offers comprehensive breast and reconstructive surgery.

Needle Localization

Needle localization is performed by a radiologist immediately prior to surgical breast biopsy. Needle localization is used to increase the accuracy of the surgical biopsy when a lesion is too small to be felt. Using mammography, ultrasound or MRI, the radiologist guides a wire marker next to the targeted mass so that it may be accurately located during surgery.

Breast-Conserving Surgery

Breast-conserving surgery or lumpectomy is the most common form of breast cancer surgery. With a lumpectomy, the tumor and some surrounding tissue is removed. Following surgery, the patient may also undergo radiation therapy.

Breast Reconstruction and Mastectomy

Mastectomy is surgery in which breast tissue, along with the cancerous tumor, is removed. Breast reconstruction may be performed simultaneously to mastectomy for immediate restoration of volume and shape or at a later date if radiation therapy is necessary. Immediate reconstruction allows for a skin-sparing mastectomy in those who are appropriate candidates. The surgeons will consult with each patient to determine if immediate or delayed reconstruction is best.