Our physicians partner with our patients in the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast disease.
What is Breast Ultrasound?

Ultrasound (also known as sonography) uses sound waves to create an image of an area of the breast. It is primarily used to evaluate masses found during a mammography or a physical exam or to guide needle placement for breast needle biopsies. Ultrasound is the only way to determine if a mass is a cyst (fluid-filled) without placing a needle. When ultrasound is used in conjunction with mammography, the physician is provided with more complete and accurate information about an area of concern. Your physician or our physicians (the radiologists) will decide whether or not this test will help you.

What Can I Expect?

You will be made comfortable on a padded examination table. A warm gel will be applied to your breast, and the sonographer will scan using a rounded instrument called a transducer. Images will be transmitted to a screen. The sonographer will then select and print the images. The procedure lasts only a few minutes.

After your images are complete, they will be read by one of our specialized radiologists. Your report is then electronically sent to your referring physician. You will also receive a report in the mail within several business days of the reading.

How Do I Prepare?

There are no specific preparations prior to the procedure. It is convenient to wear a two-piece outfit, since you will need to undress from the waist up.

Please arrive approximately 20 minutes prior to your appointment to allow for registration and changing.

If a mass is found that requires a biopsy, this can often be done quickly and easily by ultrasound-guided needle biopsy. We use state-of-the-art, high-definition ultrasound equipment to assure the best visualization of the breast tissue. Our sonographers are all female and registered in ultrasound imaging of the breast.

For More Information

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.

Where Do I Need To Go?

St. Peter’s Breast Center is located on the third floor of 317 South Manning Boulevard, Suite 305. For a map and directions, visit www.sphcs.org/mapdirections or call (518) 525-7536.