

About your assessment visit

This document includes information about what happens when you are asked to come back to BreastScreen Victoria for further tests.

Why have I been asked to come back for further tests?

We have asked you to come back to BreastScreen Victoria for more tests because there is an area on your breast screen (mammogram) that needs further investigation. We refer to this as assessment. Most clients who are called back to BreastScreen Victoria do not have breast cancer.

How much will further tests cost?

At BreastScreen Victoria, we provide all further tests free of charge.

Who can I talk to before my appointment?

You can speak to a trained nurse counsellor before your appointment. Please call your assessment clinic directly; we include the relevant phone number in all assessment letters.

What will happen at my appointment?

On arrival at the assessment clinic, you will be met by a nurse counsellor who will explain what is going to happen. You will be asked to read and sign a consent form, so the assessment team can perform the necessary tests. The nurse counsellor will answer any questions you may have about the consent form and assessment process. Then, a team of specialists will assess the area of your breast that needs investigation.

The assessment team will support you throughout your visit.

How long will my appointment take?

Please allow up to half a day at the assessment clinic for your appointment. We can provide an attendance certificate for your workplace.

What tests will I need?

You will need some or all of the following tests:

- **3D Mammograms** – We use an advanced type of mammography at our assessment clinics to get a more detailed view of the breast area that requires investigation. This is called 3D mammography or tomosynthesis. 3D Mammography takes a number of x-ray images (usually 11-25) from different angles and reconstructs them to create a 3D image.
- **Breast ultrasound** – We may use ultrasound to see your breast tissue in more detail. To take an ultrasound, we apply gel to the breast and hold a probe against your skin. Ultrasound should not be painful or uncomfortable.
- **Breast examination** – A doctor may check for any changes in the breast that they can see or feel.
- **Breast core biopsy** – A doctor may use a needle to take a small sample of cells or tissue from the part of the breast that needs further investigation. More information will be given to you at the time if you require a biopsy.

Please discuss any concerns with your assessment team.

What are my choices?

You may withdraw your consent and ask to stop the tests at any time.

When will I get my results?

In most cases, we will be able to deliver your results on the day of your assessment visit. However, biopsy results may take up to 1 week. We will also send a copy of your results to your doctor.

What happens next?

If we find no signs of breast cancer on the day of your assessment visit, we will invite you to return for a regular breast screen in 2 years.

What if you find breast cancer?

We diagnose a small number of clients with breast cancer after further tests.

If we find breast cancer during your assessment, we will arrange for you to meet with a doctor and nurse counsellor to discuss the findings and next steps. We will then refer you back to your regular doctor who will arrange your ongoing care.

Most breast cancers found during a breast screen are still at an early stage. The sooner cancer is detected, the more successful treatment is likely to be.

For more information, visit breastscreen.org.au



Book at
breastscreen.org.au
or call **13 20 50**

TTY 13 36 77 if you have hearing
or speech difficulties



For more information or to change your details,
visit **breastscreen.org.au** or call **13 20 50**



For interpreter assistance, call **13 14 50**



Translated information:
breastscreen.org.au/translations



BreastScreen Victoria acknowledges the
support of the Victorian Government.