

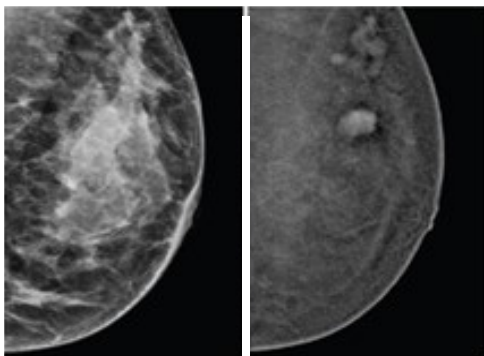
# Contrast enhanced mammogram

## What is a contrast enhanced mammogram (CEM)?

A contrast enhanced mammogram is a breast imaging technique which combines 3D tomosynthesis digital mammography with an intravenous contrast agent.

Usually requested by a referring doctor to gain information about a current symptom or as a follow up test to monitor a previous condition.

Contrast-Enhanced Mammography shows new or unusual blood flow patterns that develop when cancers grow. These highlighted areas make it easier to identify cancers earlier.



Conventional mammogram

Contrast enhanced mammogram

## What preparation is required?

As contrast will be administered, we will require you to fast from food for 2 hours **prior** to your appointment time.

**Please continue to drink water prior to your appointment.**

Results of a recent blood test (<1 year) may be required to check your renal function prior to your contrast mammogram. If required, our staff will notify you at the time of booking.

## What is involved?

A contrast enhanced mammography examination is very similar to having a conventional mammogram. Prior to the exam, the radiographer will inject the contrast agent into a cannula in your arm. After the injection, you will wait two minutes to allow the contrast agent to flow into your breast.

Two experienced female mammographers will then perform one or more conventional mammograms on the specific breast(s) of interest. Following this, the Radiologist will study the images to determine whether there are accumulations of the contrast agent in specific areas of the breast.

The radiologist may wish to follow the mammogram with an ultrasound or MRI.

## Are there any side effects?

A small number of women may experience more discomfort at the time of the mammogram. There may be some continuing soreness for a short time, but no long-term ill effects.

There are some side effects that are common with the administration of contrast.

## How long will this take?

It is recommended to allow for two hours parking, in case of an unforeseen delay.

## How much will this cost?

Please ask reception staff of the cost involved at the time of booking your appointment.

## Important

**Do NOT have a mammogram if you are or think you may be pregnant.** It is recommended to make an appointment for a breast ultrasound as well, if it is mentioned on the referral or if you usually have one.

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

## Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the number below.