

Where can I get help?

- You should call your healthcare provider right away if you get an abnormal result.
- For general information, call the Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program at 1-866-727-3926 or visit our website screeningforlife.ca.
- Call a friend! An abnormal result does not mean you have cancer, but it can be stressful.



Remember to return for your next screening mammogram!

About the Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program

The Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program (ABCSP) is coordinated by Alberta Health Services in partnership with the Alberta Society of Radiologists. The ABCSP mails your screening mammogram results to you.

To get letters from the ABCSP your name and address must be up to date with Alberta Health; call 310-0000 (toll free) then dial 780-427-1432.

Screening is one of the best things you can do for yourself to find breast cancer early. Breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening saves lives.

For more information, please contact

Cancer Screening Programs

Phone: 1-866-727-3926

Fax: 1-888-944-3388

Web: screeningforlife.ca

Local contact information

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Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program



Breast010

Breast Screening

Making Sense of Abnormal Mammogram Results



**SCREENING
FOR LIFE.CA**

What does an abnormal result mean?

An abnormal result means you need more tests. About 7% of women who have a screening mammogram are asked to get more tests. Only a few women with abnormal results have breast cancer.

These are the common reasons for an abnormal result. They are not dangerous and are not cancer:

- Cysts (fluid-filled sacs)
- Fibroadenomas (small benign lesions that do not spread)
- Small calcium deposits



9 out of 10 women who go for extra tests do not have breast cancer. But, following-up on any abnormal results is important.



What do I do now?

Call your healthcare provider right away and make an appointment.

- You may want to write your questions down to take to the healthcare provider. It can also help to bring someone for support.
- At the appointment, the healthcare provider will book your additional tests.
- Get your tests done.
- If you do have breast cancer, it's important to know as soon as possible.

When breast cancer is found early, treatment may work better.

What are the additional tests?

Your extra tests depend on the type of abnormality that was found. These tests will help the healthcare provider rule out cancer or decide what the next steps should be.

Additional tests, in order from most to least common are:

Diagnostic mammogram: This special x-ray of the breast gives more information than a screening mammogram.

Clinical examination: Your healthcare provider examines your breasts for lumps, irritation, rash or dimpling.

Ultrasound: A machine uses ultrasound waves to detect whether a breast lump is solid or fluid.

Biopsy: A small sample of tissue is taken from the abnormal area for further study.



Breast ultrasound test