

Mayo Clinic Minute

What women need to know about mammograms

Video	Audio
Amy Degnim, M.D.	"A mammogram is an X-ray investigation of the breast to look for a cancer."
Vivien Williams	Who should get a mammogram and when?
Amy Degnim, M.D. Surgery Mayo Clinic	"There's been a lot of controversy in the last 10 years about whether age 40 is the right age to start screening, and whether mammograms should be done every year or every other year."
Vivien Williams	Dr. Amy Degnim says mammograms have been proven to save lives by detecting breast cancer early — while it's still curable. But the test is not always a perfect fit for everyone.
Amy Degnim, M.D.	"A mammogram does not detect 100% of cancers in the breast. So for some women who have very dense tissue in their entire breast, there could be a cancer in there that we just cannot see."
Vivien Williams	In that case, or if a woman is at high risk of breast cancer, other screening tools, such as ultrasound, 3D mammograms, MRI or a technology called "molecular breast imaging" may be additional options. Dr. Degnim says women should talk to their health care providers about the screening tools that are right for them.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.