

Mayo Clinic Minute

What is molecular breast imaging, and who needs it?

Video	Audio
Reporter	Mammography screening for breast cancer saves lives. But another test may be better for women with dense breasts.
Deborah Rhodes, M.D. General Internal Medicine Mayo Clinic	"MBI stands for molecular breast imaging, which is a relatively new tool for imaging the breast that was designed to overcome the limitations of mammography for imaging the dense breast."
Reporter	You see, dense breast tissue and cancer both appear white on a mammogram.
Deborah Rhodes, M.D.	"So this tool images the breast in such a way that the tumors stand out from the background tissue and are not obscured by overlying breast density."
Reporter	Two large studies showed that MBI detected three to four times more cancers than mammography in women with dense tissue.
Reporter	How do you know if you have dense breasts?
Deborah Rhodes, M.D.	"Dense tissue is defined solely by the mammographic appearance of the breast. The more white tissue on the mammogram, the denser the breast."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.