

07 Jul 2021
Exam Date: 05 Jul 2021

L [REDACTED] TESTLN-M [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] STONINGTON PLACE
VICTORIA, BC V3B 7W8

Dear L [REDACTED],

Thank you for attending the Breast Screening Program. Your screening mammogram shows that you need further testing. Your health care provider (noted below) has been notified. You may have already been contacted by a medical imaging facility to arrange for further testing. However, if you are not contacted within the next week to book an appointment, please speak with your health care provider directly.

Further testing is part of routine screening and will usually confirm that your breasts are healthy. These tests could include additional mammography images and/or breast ultrasound with a small number of those needing a tissue biopsy.

Most people (about 94 in every 100) whose mammogram shows that further testing is needed will be found to have healthy breasts. For the few with breast cancer, the cancer is usually found early enough that it can be treated successfully. If you have further questions, please call your health care provider.

Breast Density: Your mammogram showed a breast density category of BI-RADS C. Your breasts are composed of a mixture of non-dense (fatty) tissue and dense tissue. Breast density can decrease over time, particularly as you age. Please see reverse side of this letter for more information about breast density.

Return to routine screening in 24 months if cleared by your health care provider.

Thank you for attending the BC Cancer Breast Screening Program.

Dr. Colin Mar
Breast Screening Medical Director

If you have received this report in error, please notify us immediately at 1-800-663-9203.

Health Care Provider:
GEORGE PLISBFVZ
NATUROPATH FLOWER 987 FLOWER ST
VANCOUVER, BC V5Z 1G1

Screening Facility:
COMOX VALLEY - NORTH ISLAND HOSPITAL BREAST SCREENING
101 LERWICK RD
COURTENAY, BC V9N 0B9
250-331-5900

What is breast density?

Breasts are made up of two main types of tissue – fibroglandular tissue and fatty tissue. Fibroglandular tissue appears dense on a mammogram, while fatty tissue does not. Most people have a mixture of both dense and non-dense (fatty) tissue in their breasts. The amount of dense tissue compared to the amount of non-dense tissue in your breast is commonly referred to as your ‘Breast Density’. Having any amount of dense breast tissue is normal and very common.

How do I know how much dense breast tissue I have?

The amount of dense tissue in your breasts is measured by a radiologist using the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS). Your BI-RADS assessment can be found on your mammogram results letter. The amount of dense breast tissue increases with each letter:

BI-RADS A	BI-RADS B	BI-RADS C	BI-RADS D
Your breasts are composed almost entirely of non-dense (fatty) tissue.	Your breasts are composed of mainly non-dense (fatty) tissue, with some scattered areas of dense tissue.	Your breasts are composed of a mixture of non-dense (fatty) tissue and dense tissue.	Your breasts are composed of almost entirely dense tissue.

Your breast density can only be seen on a mammogram and is not related to the size or feel of your breasts. It varies from person to person and can decrease or change over time, particularly as a person gets older.

Why is it important that I know my breast density?

1. Research shows that the risk of breast cancer increases as the amount of dense tissue in a breast increases. However, breast density only has a small impact on your overall risk. You should not be alarmed if you have dense breast tissue, but you should speak with your health care provider about your overall breast cancer risk.

2. Dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram. Normal dense breast tissue looks white. Breast masses or tumours also look white, so dense tissue can hide some tumours. This is why it is important to speak with your health care provider if you notice any changes in your breasts, even if you have recently had a normal mammogram.

Are there additional tests available for those with dense breasts?

Currently, there is not enough scientific evidence to recommend other tests based on breast density alone. The evidence does show that other tests, such as breast ultrasound, may find additional cancers in those with dense breast tissue. However, breast ultrasound testing can have a high rate of false-positive results. A false positive result is an abnormal test result that turns out to be normal after further testing (which can include biopsy or surgery). Speak to your health care provider to see if breast ultrasound is something to consider.

If I have dense breasts, do I still need a mammogram?

Yes. A mammogram is the only screening test proven to reduce breast cancer deaths. Many cancers are seen on mammograms even if you have dense breast tissue. Besides getting regular mammograms, you should be familiar with the look and feel of your breasts and speak to your health care provider if you notice any changes. You can also reduce your overall risk of breast cancer by maintaining a healthy body weight, staying active, limiting alcohol intake, breastfeeding if possible, and weighing the risk and benefits of hormone therapy for menopause symptoms (learn more at www.screeningbc.ca/breast). Even though dense breast tissue is a risk factor for breast cancer, having dense breast tissue on its own does not mean that you are at ‘high’ risk for developing the disease in your lifetime. Other risk factors for breast cancer include getting older, having a family history of breast cancer, and certain inherited pathogenic gene variants including BRCA1 and BRCA2.

See an educational video and learn more about breast density by visiting www.screeningbc.ca/breast

Your personal information is collected and protected from unauthorized use and disclosure, in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act and, when applicable, the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and may be used and disclosed only as provided by those Acts. The personal information is used to provide medical services, and to provide Breast Screening Program support to patients. The information collected is used for quality assurance management and disclosed to healthcare practitioners involved in providing care or when required by law. In addition, the Breast Screening Program will advise patients of results, remind patients and their primary care providers about rescreening or follow-up, and will conduct and monitor quality and performance of the screening process.

Any questions regarding the collection of the information by BC Cancer can be directed to: 801 – 686 West Broadway, Vancouver BC V5X 1G1, or email: screening@bccancer.bc.ca. If this information is received in error, please contact the sender immediately.