

# What you need to know about Breast MRI

*Preparing for your procedure.*



**Your wellness is our priority.**

St. Paul Radiology takes great pride by providing you with the best care and service experience in the East Metro area.

We want to ensure you a positive experience at one of our St. Paul Radiology locations by offering information on breast MRI.

This exam produces detailed pictures of both breasts. MRI of the breast is not a replacement for mammography or ultrasound imaging but rather a supplemental tool for detecting and staging breast cancer and other breast abnormalities.

## **What is MRI?**

MRI or Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a diagnostic scan using a magnetic field, radio waves and computers to create extremely detailed images of the human body.

## **What is breast MRI?**

During an MRI of the breast, you will be asked to lie on your stomach on the scanning table. Your breasts rest comfortably in the scanning table which moves into the center of the magnet. After an initial series of images is

taken, you will be given an intravenous contrast agent, which improves the visibility of any tumor that may be present. Additional images are then acquired.

## **How do I know if I am a good candidate for breast MRI?**

Your physician can make the best determination if you are a good candidate for breast MRI. Patients usually fit into one of the following profiles:

- High risk for breast cancer: personal or strong family history (especially premenopausal cancer in first degree relative like your mother, a sister or your daughter)
- Breast cancer gene present
- Prior to breast cancer conservation surgery to look for additional undetected areas of breast cancer in either breast
- Problem solving for breast diagnosis
- Breast implants with question of a leak

## **What information will I need to provide before my breast MRI is scheduled?**

A breast MRI should be scheduled 1-2 weeks after your menstrual cycle. If your previous mammogram or breast ultrasound was not done at St. Paul Radiology, you will be asked to contact your former provider and request that your exam be sent to St. Paul Radiology for a comparison study.

At the time of your appointment, you will be asked to complete a medical questionnaire that will assist the technologist in assuring that the highest quality exam is performed. Please make sure your physician and the technologist performing your exam know if you have a pacemaker, prosthesis, aneurysm clips, metal implants or other metal objects in your body. If you know you have had metal in your eyes, please inform us, as you may require an additional study prior to your MRI.

## **What should I bring to my appointment?**

Please bring your insurance card.

## **Is there any preparation on my part prior to my breast MRI?**

You will be asked to change into a cloth gown or robe. Lockers are available to store your personal belongings.

## **Is a breast MRI painful?**

The procedure is painless. You will hear a knocking sound as each series of images is taken.

## **How long will my examination last?**

Most exams will last 45-60 minutes.

## **May I move during the examination?**

It is important to remain as still as possible while images are acquired.

## **What is computer-aided-detection and how does it enhance breast MRI?**

St. Paul Radiology radiologists utilize a CADstream™ Computer Aided Detection (CAD) to improve efficiency, standardization and quality in our breast MRI program.

## **How will I receive my breast MRI results?**

A breast imaging radiologist (a physician who specializes in interpreting breast imaging exams) will study the images from your examination and send a report to your physician. All of our radiologists are certified by the American Board of Radiology.



**The Name you trust.  
The Value you deserve.**

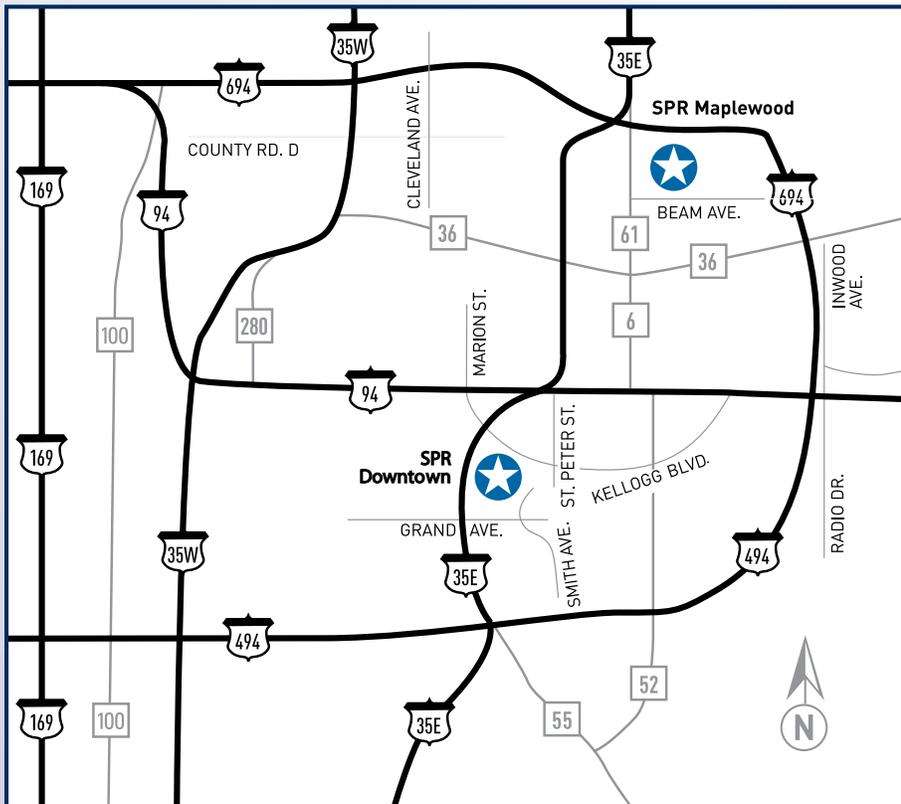
**StPaulRadiology.com**



Over 98% of patients surveyed say their experience with us was like a walk in the park.

Over 98% patients surveyed said they were satisfied with their experience at St. Paul Radiology. We understand their concerns and make them a priority.

If you have additional questions, please contact the St. Paul Radiology scheduling department at **651.632.5700.**



Map not to scale.

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[StPaulRadiology.com](http://StPaulRadiology.com)

## Appointment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

At: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ On: \_\_\_\_\_ (Day), \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ (Date)



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