Contrast Enhanced Spectral Mammography

If the results from your recent mammogram were inconclusive due to dense breast tissue or ambiguous images, Avera Breast Center now offers the latest technology in identifying breast concerns. With its precise picture clarity, GE's SenoBright Contrast Enhanced Spectral Mammography (CESM) serves as a secondary tool in determining the presence or absence of breast cancer.



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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FOR BREAST CENTERS Contrast Enhanced Spectral Mammography



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How CESM works

CESM uses multiple X-ray energies to create two images: one low-energy, standard digital mammography image and another high-energy image enhanced by a contrast agent. CESM uses the intravenous contrast agent (much like a CT scan) to compare the two images and highlight areas with abnormal blood flow or lesions. These areas with abnormal blood flow or tissue are easier for physicians to see, diagnose and even predict the tissue's pattern of growth.

What to expect

When you come for your scheduled CESM, the technologist will first ask a series of questions to ensure that you will not have a reaction to the iodine contrast agent. If there are no concerns, the technologist or nurse will give you the intravenous injection.



You will then wait two minutes for the contrast agent to flow through the blood. The technologist will then position you for the special mammography exam. While in spectral mode, CESM will take a craniocaudal image (CC) of your breast, which includes most of the glandular tissue (ducts and lobes). Next, CESM will capture a mediolateral oblique (MLO) image of the breast. A MLO view includes more of your breast tissue and also your armpit tissue.

SenoBright CESM patient benefits

- Easy mammogram procedure that takes minutes to perform
- Reduces waiting time and uncertainty of results
- Offers enhanced clarity to patients with dense breast tissue
- Less affected by hormone replacement or menstrual cycles, so the exam can be performed at patient's convenience

- Can be performed on patients who may not be a candidate for MRI
- Allows doctors to find growing numbers of small blood vessels, which could be the start of a tumor
- Helps doctors and surgeons determine the most effective treatment plan, if cancer is detected
- In the majority of cases,
 CESM results can be given to the patient the same day as her exam, reducing anxiety