



thebreastcentre.com.au

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL EXISTING PATIENTS 23.3.20

BREAST CENTRE UPDATE REGARDING ROUTINE BREAST IMAGING

All of the policies outlined in the previous document last week (17.3.20) remain in place.

These policies apply to patients attending for review appointments, not to those who are attending with a new/recent breast cancer diagnosis or for postoperative review.

This update is regarding routine, surveillance breast imaging in existing Breast Centre patients.

- MIA Radiology East Melbourne remains open, and routine surveillance breast imaging is currently still being undertaken, however this may obviously change, and the situation may arise where urgent imaging only is able to be undertaken.
- At present, if you are scheduled for routine review, please go ahead and undergo your breast imaging as requested, and we will notify you of the result, and provide further information at that stage. This may obviously change over time if precautions escalate further and routine imaging is suspended.
- For women who undergo annual breast imaging who do not have a prior history of breast cancer, eg family history screening, the imaging is obviously less time dependent than in women with a previous breast cancer diagnosis, and if precautions escalate further, imaging in these women can be safely deferred for months.
- For women who have a prior breast cancer diagnosis, it is more important that women who have undergone breast conserving surgery (lumpectomy) undergo reasonably timely breast imaging, than women who have undergone unilateral mastectomy. In women with prior lumpectomy, the imaging of the affected breast is aimed at the early detection of local recurrence, the likelihood of which is very low, whereas in women who have undergone unilateral mastectomy, imaging of the remaining breast is for screening purposes only, and the likelihood of an abnormality being identified is even lower. Women who have undergone past unilateral mastectomy can therefore safely delay imaging if required.
- Women who have undergone bilateral mastectomy obviously do not require breast imaging

Please do not attend for imaging if any of the following apply:

- Individuals with the following: fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath
- If you have had contact with anyone diagnosed with corona virus
- If you, or anyone with whom you have been in contact, has returned from overseas within the last 14 days.

Any changes to the policies will be posted on our website www.thebreastcentre.com.au and social media www.facebook.com/DrJaneOBrien and www.instagram.com/DrJaneOBrien

We thank you for your understanding.

Jane O'Brien