

UAB MEDICINE BREAST IMAGING SCREENING GUIDELINES

Purpose: Regular screening mammograms help ensure that breast cancer can be detected as early as possible. To facilitate appropriate imaging-based screening, it is essential to implement evidence-based screening guidelines to promote optimal decision-making and proper utilization of image-based breast screenings. These guidelines are recommendations for ordering and obtaining breast imaging-based screenings, and they are in accordance with the American College of Radiology (ACR) Appropriateness Criteria for Breast Screening.

- UAB Medicine Breast Imaging Guidelines: No Personal History of Breast Cancer
- UAB Medicine Breast Imaging Guidelines: Personal History of Breast Cancer
- UAB Medicine Breast Imaging Guidelines: Special Cases

LEGEND

ABUS	Automated Breast Ultrasound
ACR	American College of Radiology
CEM	Contrast-Enhanced Mammography
DBT	Digital Breast Tomosynthesis
DM	Digital Mammography
LTR	Lifetime Risk for Developing Breast Cancer
MG	Mammogram
NCCN	National Comprehensive Cancer Network
T-C7,8	Tyrer-Cuzick Risk Assessment Model Version 7, Version 8
US	Ultrasound

UAB BREAST IMAGING SCREENING GUIDELINES: NO PERSONAL HISTORY OF BREAST CANCER

Patient Population	Breast Density	Recommended Screening Method	Age to Start & Interval	Imaging Reference & Additional Information
Average and Intermediate Risk: <20% LTR (TC-7,8)	Fatty/Scattered (A,B)	DM+DBT	40 yo, annual	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Supplemental Breast Cancer Screening Based on Breast Density (2024)- Variant 1,4
Average and Intermediate Risk: <20% LTR (TC-7,8)	Heterogeneously/ Extremely Dense (C, D)	DM+DBT -MRI is recommended for supplemental screening if desired by the patient -CEM if unable to have an MRI	40 yo, annual	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Supplemental Breast Cancer Screening Based on Breast Density (2024)- Variant 2,3,5,6
High Risk: LTR ≥ 20% *No Surgery	Any Density	DM+DBT plus MRI -CEM if unable to have MRI -Prior to 1 st MRI, schedule visit with NP in Breast Health Clinic	DM+DBT - 30 yo, annual MRI - 30 yo, annual	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Female Breast Cancer Screening (2025)- Variant 3,4 Breast Cancer Screening for Women at Higher-Than-Average Risk: Updated Recommendations From ACR. (JACR, May 2023)
High Risk: Thoracic radiation or abdominal radiation overlapping breast before age 30 *No Surgery	Any Density	DM+DBT plus MRI -CEM if unable to have MRI -Prior to 1 st MRI, schedule visit with NP in Breast Health Clinic	DM+DBT - 25 yo or 8 years after radiation treatment (whichever is later), annual MRI - same as DBT	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Female Breast Cancer Screening (2025)- Variant 3,4 Breast Cancer Screening for Women at Higher-Than-Average Risk: Updated Recommendations From ACR. (JACR, May 2023)
High Risk: Genetic mutation carriers/untested first-degree relatives *No Surgery	Any Density	DM+DBT plus MRI -CEM if unable to have MRI -Prior to 1 st MRI, schedule visit with NP in Breast Health Clinic	DM+DBT - 30 yo (40 if annual MRI) MRI - 25-30 yo	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Female Breast Cancer Screening (2025)- Variant 3,4 Breast Cancer Screening for Women at Higher-Than-Average Risk: Updated Recommendations From ACR. (JACR, May 2023)

High Risk: Prophylactic Bilateral Mastectomy with or without reconstruction	N/A	None	N/A	ACR Appropriateness Criteria – Imaging after Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction (2020) – Variant 4,5,6
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UAB BREAST IMAGING SCREENING GUIDELINES: PERSONAL HISTORY OF BREAST CANCER

Patient Population	Breast Density	Recommended Screening Method	Age to Start & Interval	Imaging Reference & Additional Information
Post-Lumpectomy or unilateral mastectomy with or without reconstruction <50 years of age	Any Density	DM+DBT of the native breast plus MRI	At age of diagnosis, annual	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Imaging After Breast Surgery (2022)- Variant 5
		-CEM if unable to have MRI	*Diagnostic mammography for 2 years post treatment. First diagnostic mammogram to be performed 6-12 months post-radiation.	Breast Cancer Screening in Women at Higher-Than-Average Risk: Updated Recommendations from the ACR (JACR, 2023)
Post-Lumpectomy or unilateral mastectomy with or without reconstruction >50 years of age	Fatty/Scattered (A,B)	DM+DBT of the native breast	At age of diagnosis, annual *Diagnostic mammography for 2 years post treatment. First diagnostic mammogram to be performed 6-12 months post-radiation.	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Imaging After Breast Surgery (2022)- Variant 5 Breast Cancer Screening in Women at Higher-Than-Average Risk: Updated Recommendations from the ACR (JACR, 2023)

Post-Lumpectomy or unilateral mastectomy with or without reconstruction >50 years of age	Heterogeneously/ Extremely Dense (C, D)	DM+DBT of the native breast plus MRI -CEM if unable to have MRI	Age at diagnosis, annual *Diagnostic mammography for 2 years post treatment. First diagnostic mammogram to be performed 6- 12 months post- radiation.	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Imaging After Breast Surgery (2022)- Variant 5 Breast Cancer Screening in Women at Higher-Than-Average Risk: Updated Recommendations from the ACR (JACR, 2023)
Bilateral mastectomy with or without reconstruction	N/A	None	N/A *If there is a substantial amount of residual tissue, DM+DBT or MRI can be considered.	ACR Appropriateness Criteria- Imaging After Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction (2020) - Variant 1,2,3

UAB BREAST IMAGING SCREENING GUIDELINES: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Patient Population	Breast Density	Recommended Screening Method	Age to Start & Interval	Imaging Reference & Additional Information
Male: Average risk	Any Density	None	N/A	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Male Breast Cancer Screening (2025)- Variant 2
Male: High Risk Risk determined by provider (personal history of breast cancer, genetic mutation, family history of male breast cancer, etc.)	Any Density	DM+DBT -Prior to 1 st mammogram, schedule visit with NP in Breast Health Clinic	Interval and age not well researched; not prior to age 25	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Male Breast Cancer Screening (2025)- Variant 1 *NCCN Guidelines for Genetic/Familial High-Risk Assessment: Breast, Ovarian, Pancreatic, and Prostate Version 2.2026 – Guidelines for BRCA- positive males -Consider annually at age 50 or 10 yrs prior to earliest known male breast cancer in family; not prior to age 25
Transgender Woman (male birth): Average risk and	Any Density	DM+DBT may be appropriate	40 yo, annual	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Transgender Breast Screening (2021)- Variant 1

≥5 years of hormone use				
Transgender Woman (male birth): High-risk and ≥5 years of hormone use	Any Density	DM+DBT	25-30 yo, annual	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Transgender Breast Screening (2021)- Variant 2
Transgender Woman (male birth): Average risk and <5 years or NO hormone use	Any Density	None	N/A	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Transgender Breast Screening (2021)- Variant 3
Transgender Woman (male birth): High-risk and <5 years or NO hormone use	Any Density	DM+DBT may be appropriate	25-30 yo, annual	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Transgender Breast Screening (2021)- Variant 4
Transgender Man (female birth): History of bilateral mastectomy	N/A	None	N/A	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Transgender Breast Screening (2021)- Variant 5
Transgender Man (female birth): History of reduction mammoplasty or no chest surgery	Any Density	As per standard screening guidelines for density and risk	As per standard screening guidelines for density and risk	ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Transgender Breast Screening (2021)- Variant 6,7,8 Breast Cancer Screening in Women at Higher-Than-Average Risk: Updated Recommendations from the ACR (JACR, 2023)

UAB BREAST IMAGING SCREENING GUIDELINES: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Patient Population	Breast Density	Recommended Screening Method	Age to Start & Interval	Imaging Reference & Additional Information
During Pregnancy: Any Risk	Any Density	Follow the same screening guidelines for density and risk in non-pregnant	Follow the same screening guidelines for density and	ACR Appropriateness Criteria - Breast Imaging of Pregnant and Lactating Women (2025)- Variant 1,2,3

		<p>patients with the exception of MRI/CEM*.</p> <p>*MRI/CEM not indicated for screening in pregnant women.</p>	risk in non-pregnant patients	
During Lactation: Any Risk	Any Density	Follow the same screening guidelines for density and risk in non-lactating patients	Follow the same screening guidelines for density and risk in non-lactating patients	<p>ACR Appropriateness Criteria - Breast Imaging of Pregnant and Lactating Women (2018)</p> <p>Tissue will be dense; expressing breast milk just prior to examination by breast feeding or pumping improves accuracy.</p>
Implant Integrity: Any Risk (not for cancer screening)	Any Density	<p>MRI</p> <p>-US only if MRI is not able to be performed as MRI is the most sensitive examination</p>	Initial imaging 5-6 years following implant placement and every 2-3 years thereafter	<p>ACR Appropriateness Criteria for Breast Implant Evaluation (2025)- Variant 6</p> <p>FDA- Breast Implants - Certain Labeling Recommendations to Improve Patient Communication (2020) - https://www.fda.gov</p>