

Mammograms after COVID-19 vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that some patients may develop axillary lymphadenopathy under the arm in which they receive the COVID-19 dose.

Axillary lymphadenopathy, also known as adenopathy, is not a disease, but describes changes in the lymph nodes in the armpit. Patients may notice soreness, swelling and tenderness and these changes may also be present on a subsequent mammogram.

For this reason, the CDC has suggested that screening mammograms be delayed 4-6 weeks after the last dose of the vaccine. TopLine MD affiliated imaging centers support this recommendation and encourage patients to discuss any concerns with their physicians before scheduling their next mammogram. Please note, this recommendation **does not apply to diagnostic mammograms**. Diagnostic mammograms should never be delayed.

The imaging center personnel will be asking patients about the timing of their vaccine when scheduling screening mammograms. The radiologist will take this information into account when interpreting every mammogram and MRI.

Those studies affected by axillary adenopathy will be personally handled by the radiologist and/or nurse to minimize any anxiety. Follow up studies may include focal axillary ultrasound, and clinical follow up may be needed in cases where palpable axillary adenopathy persists beyond expected time frame.

Should you have any questions, please contact your physician.



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