

The "How-to" on Getting Authorizations

Here are some tips from the staff at Sharp & Children's MRI Center that can help make the process easier.

AUTHORIZATIONS

For PPO Patients - We can obtain authorization for you. Here's what we'll need:

- ✓ Doctor's prescription
- ✓ Copy of current insurance card
- ✓ Most recent chart notes relating to the requested MRI, and/or History and Physical
- ✓ Demographics or face sheet

For Medi-cal Patients - We obtain the Treatment Authorization Request for you (TAR). Here's what we'll need:

- ✓ Doctor's prescription
- ✓ Copy of current insurance card
- ✓ Most recent chart notes relating to the requested MRI, and/or History and Physical
- ✓ Demographics or face sheet

For HMO Patients

The referring physician's office must obtain authorization. We cannot obtain authorization for you.

For Medicare Patients

No authorization is required.

Once this information is received, we will call the patient and schedule the exam once referral is approved. Medi-cal can take one to two weeks.

For Worker's Comp Patients

The referring physician's office must obtain authorization from the adjuster and forward all worker's compensation information to us. We cannot obtain authorization for you.

LIENS

Personal Injury Liens - We need the following to process a patient with a personal injury lien:

- ✓ Doctor's prescription
- ✓ Patient demographics
- ✓ Attorney demographics

The personal injury lien form is sent to the patient's attorney for signature. Once we receive it back, the patient is scheduled. The patient will also sign the form at the time of the exam.

Green Liens - We need the following to process a patient with a worker's compensation injury and an attorney:

- ✓ Doctor's prescription
- ✓ Patient demographics
- ✓ Attorney demographics
- ✓ Worker's compensation information

The patient signs the Green Lien form at the time of the exam.

Sharp & Children's MRI Center Staff



Scheduling Staff including (back row left to right) Stefanie Sanchez, Toni Takanashi, Rebecca Blodgett (front row left to right) Donna Luke, and Mary Jo Lau.



Karen Granadino
Billing
858-939-4565

Elena (Helen) Conley
Insurance Authorizations
858-939-6753

Spanish-speaking staff is available

OUR PHYSICIANS

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Russell N. Low, M.D.

Breast MR Imaging - New Recommendations from the American Cancer Society

"MR imaging of the breast detects small cancers that can be missed on mammography and physical examination."

Recognizing the value of breast MRI the American Cancer Society now recommends that certain women undergo routine annual breast MRI combined with mammography starting when they are 30 years old. These women include those at high risk for breast cancer.

1. Women with a genetic mutation that increases their risk of breast cancer. These breast cancer genes are known as BRCA1 and BRCA2.
2. Women who have not yet been tested but have a family member with the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation.
3. Women who have a strong family history of breast cancer. Examples include:
 - a. Two close family members with breast cancer – mother, daughter, sister
 - b. Single close family member who developed breast cancer before 50 years of age.

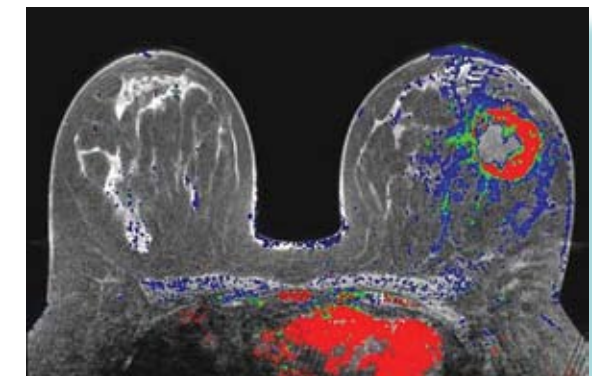
4. Women who had radiation to the chest for Hodgkin's disease between the ages of 10-30 years.

Recent studies have also found that women with newly diagnosed breast cancer should have a breast MRI to look for cancer in other sites or in the opposite breast. These studies have found that in 3% of women the breast MRI will show tumor in the other breast that is not detected on mammography. Discovering these other tumors earlier allows them to be treated improving a woman's chances for cure.

Other situations in which Breast MRI can be used include:

1. Women with breast implants that can limit the effectiveness of mammography to detect cancers.
2. Women with a palpable breast lump that is not seen on mammography or breast ultrasound.
3. Following lumpectomy breast MRI can be used to detect any remaining tumor if there is a question about the completeness of the surgical resection.

At Sharp and Children's MRI Center we have extensive experience performing and interpreting breast MR exams. Over the last several years we have performed breast MRI



On the CAD Sciences breast MRI the red and green portions indicate the active tumor. Blue is normal breast tissue. Spread of the tumor to other parts of the breast or to the lymph nodes is best seen on these colorized images.

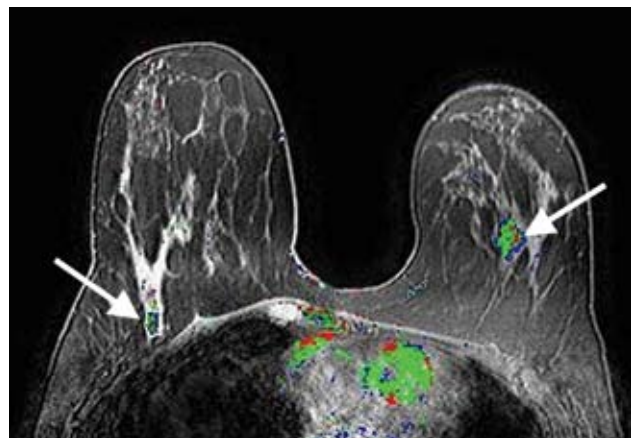
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Breast MR Imaging *(continued from page 1)*

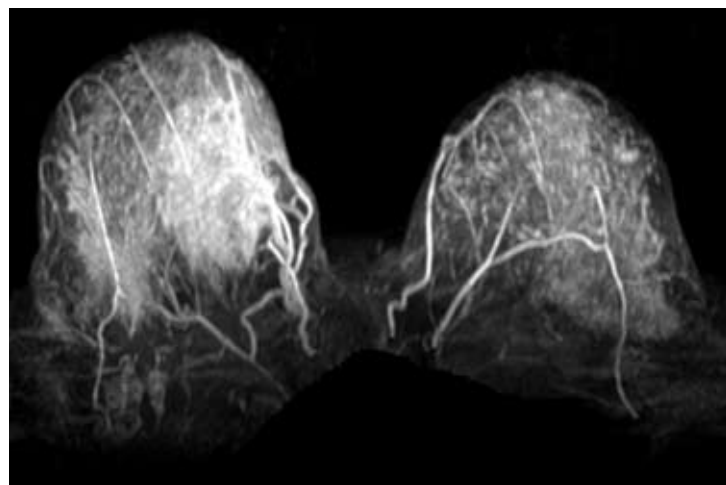
for thousands of San Diego women. Our nurses and MR technologists are very highly trained and will perform your study in a caring and patient friendly setting.

Breast MRI is safe and does not use ionizing radiation. MRI uses magnetic fields and radio waves to make very highly detailed images of the breast. Unlike mammography where the technologist compresses the breast tissue and then takes two pictures, breast MRI generates hundreds of detailed images of each breast so that all of the breast tissue is thoroughly examined. Breast cancers light up with contrast material making them easy to detect on MRI. The entire breast MR examination takes about 30 minutes to complete.

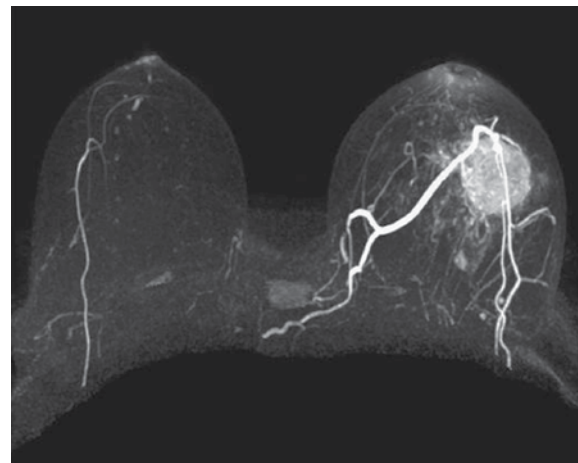
After the breast MRI is performed all of the images are examined by a board certified radiologist. A *CAD Sciences Breast MRI Workstation* assists the radiologist detect cancers by colorizing suspicious breast tumors. We have found the CAD Sciences images for breast MRI are extremely important to detect small cancers that might otherwise be missed.



Patient with a normal mammogram had a lump under her arm. The breast MRI shows cancer in both breasts.



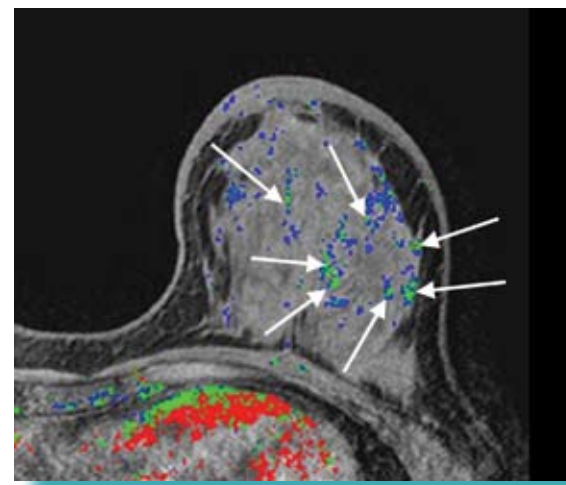
This is a breast MRI of a woman with a large right breast mass. Her mammogram and breast ultrasound had been normal for over 1 year. She could feel a mass and eventually had a breast MRI performed.



Breast MRI shows a large cancer in the left breast.

This year there will be almost 200,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States. The good news is that this is a potentially curable cancer if it is found early before it has spread to other areas of the body. Finding a breast cancer as early as possible improves the likelihood that treatment will be successful.

Breast MRI is clearly the most sensitive imaging test to diagnose breast cancer. It should always be used in conjunction with annual mammography and breast self examination. At Sharp and Children's MRI we are pleased to offer comprehensive breast MRI and hope that we can be of service to you in the future. Please call anytime for more information or to schedule an appointment (858) 939-4560.



Patient with diffuse multicentric breast cancer. The CAD Sciences colorized images help to detect these small cancers.

Meet our Physicians

In each of our coming newsletters we are pleased to feature members of our nationally recognized medical staff. Our radiologists are highly trained medical professionals who are trusted leaders in the field of diagnostic imaging. This newsletter features Nathaniel A. Chuang, M.D., Jerry R. Dwek, M.D., Jonathan Gurney, M.D., Robert J. Prager, M.D., and Christopher P. Sebrechts, M.D.

Nathaniel A. Chuang, M.D.

Dr. Chuang is board certified with the American Board of Radiology with added qualifications in neuroradiology. Dr. Chuang graduated from Brown University with an undergraduate degree in biophysics. He obtained his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. He completed his internship and residency in diagnostic radiology, and fellowship training in neuroradiology at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Chuang also completed an additional fellowship in pediatric neuroradiology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Jerry R. Dwek, M.D.

Dr. Dwek is board certified with both the American Board of Radiology, with added qualifications in pediatric radiology, and the American Board of Pediatrics. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from New York University and earned his medical degree from S.U.N.Y at Downstate Medical Center. Dr. Dwek went on to complete his internship and both pediatric and radiology residencies at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York. He then completed his fellowship training in pediatric radiology at Children's Hospital in Boston as well as a second fellowship in musculoskeletal radiology at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Dwek practices primarily at Rady Children's Hospital and Health Center in San Diego. He has given presentations at many medical conferences, received awards for his published articles, and has volunteered his professional services internationally.

Jonathan Gurney, M.D.

Dr. Gurney is board certified with the American Board of Radiology and joined San Diego Imaging Medical Group in 2002. Dr. Gurney received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his M.D. from the University of Michigan. He completed his internship in Portland, Oregon, at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Dr. Gurney completed a radiology residency at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology and a fellowship in body imaging at the University of Wisconsin. Before joining SDI, Dr. Gurney was in private practice in Arizona. Prior to that, he served as the Director of Computed Tomography for Kaiser Permanente, San Diego, in addition to an assignment as Assistant Clinical Professor of Radiology for UCSD.

Robert J. Prager, M.D.

Dr. Prager, board certified in diagnostic radiology with the American Board of Radiology, specializes in neuroradiology. He was on staff at Tufts - New England Medical Center before joining San Diego Imaging Medical Group in 1982.

Dr. Prager completed his undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College and continued at Dartmouth Medical School to earn a BMS. Dr. Prager then completed his medical degree at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. At the University of California, San Francisco, Dr. Prager completed both his residency in diagnostic radiology and his fellowship in neuroradiology.

Christopher P. Sebrechts, M.D.

Dr. Sebrechts has professional subspecialty expertise in musculoskeletal radiology and nuclear medicine imaging. He completed his bachelor's degree at Georgetown University and his medical degree at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. Dr. Sebrechts spent one year in surgical training at the University of California, Irvine. He returned to UCSD and completed his residency in diagnostic radiology and his fellowship in nuclear medicine imaging. He is board certified with the American Board of Radiology with special competency in nuclear radiology. Dr. Sebrechts is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. He serves as both the Chairman of Radiation Safety and Chairman of Radiology Film Review at Sharp Memorial Hospital.

