

# Second look ultrasound after breast MRI

## Patient information factsheet

### Why has a “second look” ultrasound been requested?

- A “second look” ultrasound is often done after a breast MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan.
- It is used if the MRI shows something **unusual, suspicious/unclear**.
- This may be something that was not seen, or not clear, on your earlier mammogram or ultrasound.

### Reasons why this is done?

#### 1. To match what was found on the MRI with an ultrasound scan

- An MRI is extremely sensitive and can detect very small or subtle issues.
- If the Radiologist finds the **same spot** on the ultrasound, they can understand it better.
- They can see if it is solid or filled with fluid, and if it looks harmless or needs more checking.

#### 2. To allow easier and faster biopsy

- Most biopsies are easier to do using ultrasound to guide them.
- If the area can be seen on ultrasound, you may not need an MRI-guided biopsy, which:
  - takes longer
  - is less widely available
  - can be less comfortable.

### 3. To rule out benign (non-harmful) causes that the MRI cannot fully explain.

- MRI scans sometimes show areas that light up, which can turn out to be:
  - benign cysts
  - fibroadenomas (a non-cancerous breast lump)
  - normal glandular (breast) tissue
  - inflammation.
- Ultrasound can often explain this quickly.

### 4. To check for changes that develop after having an MRI

- If the MRI shows something new or hard to see, the Radiologist will try to check it with an ultrasound scan first.
- This helps them decide what to do next.

### 5. It helps the Radiologist feel more certain about the diagnosis

- A second look ultrasound helps the Radiologist decide:
  - if the MRI finding is correct
  - if a biopsy is needed
  - or if it's safe to return to routine screening.

## Contact our service

Tel.: 020 7288 5888, Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

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## Contact our Trust

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on **020 7288 5551** or [whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net).

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet, please email [whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net). We will try our best to meet your needs.

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## Document information

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