

You Asked, We Delivered. MammoPad Goes Pink!

Lourdes Breast Care Center at Lourdes Hospital, Binghamton, New York

A Softer Mammogram Provider since 2005, Lourdes Breast Care Center at Lourdes Hospital was one of the first facilities in upstate New York to provide women with the comfort of the Hologic MammoPad® breast cushion. More than five years later, they are breaking new ground once again by being one of the first breast centers in the nation to offer the new pink MammoPad.

Since the beginning, technologists at Lourdes observed the cushion's impact on patient comfort, both physical and psychological.

"It's definitely softer and warmer, and much more comfortable for patients," said Technologist Alice Schmidt. "But even just seeing MammoPad puts women at ease. As soon as they watch us put the cushion on the detector, they're already anticipating a more comfortable exam."

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The new pink color of MammoPad not only brings a more aesthetically pleasing look, but also a potentially greater influence on a patient's ability to relax.

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In addition to greater patient satisfaction, increasing comfort, MammoPad also provides clinical advantages. According to the technologists at Lourdes, patient cooperation is one of the most significant factors affecting a mammographer's ability to obtain quality images. Women who aren't afraid of discomfort are often calmer and, as a result, much easier to position.

"We have some women who are very fearful, and MammoPad helps them relax enough for us to do the exam. When women expect a more comfortable exam, it makes our job much easier and helps produce a better mammogram," said Schmidt.



A Lourdes Breast Care Center patient receives a mammogram on a Selenia® digital mammography system with a MammoPad breast cushion.

The added benefit for the facility is that a patient who has a positive mammography experience tends to share that information with other women in her life who might avoid mammograms out of fear. In fact, many women leave the center vowing to encourage a friend or a relative to go to Lourdes Breast Care Center for a mammogram because of the availability of MammoPad.

"We've seen a steady increase in our mammography volume year after year in a time when a lot of facilities are seeing a decline in patients," said Laurie Ziegler, Lourdes Breast Care Center Manager. "I think that says a lot about our consistency in offering MammoPad, in addition to our other state-of-the-art equipment."

From the start, patients at Lourdes Breast Care Center were receptive to MammoPad, and it is now something they come to rely on year after year. Patients frequently comment, "How did we ever have mammograms without MammoPad?" – a sentiment echoed by the technologists at Lourdes Breast Care Center.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is MammoPad® cleared by the FDA?

Yes, MammoPad received its 510(K) clearance on February 14, 2001.

Can MammoPad be used on any mammography machine?

Yes. MammoPad is available in several different sizes to accommodate all commercially available mammography machines, including full-field digital ones. Consult with your MammoPad Specialist to determine the appropriate size MammoPad for your systems.

Is MammoPad bio-compatible?

Yes. MammoPad is non-toxic, non-irritating, and latex-free.

Can MammoPad be reused?

No. MammoPad is a single-use cushion, designed to provide a clean surface for each woman.

Is MammoPad recyclable?

The foam used to manufacture MammoPad is recyclable. MammoPads are currently recycled into carpet padding. Recycling is available for free to our customers committed to providing MammoPad as Standard of Care. Consult with your MammoPad Specialist for more information.

How does MammoPad affect overall image quality?

MammoPad can be used with confidence on both digital and analog mammography equipment. Clinical studies have shown that MammoPad does not interfere with image quality or radiation dosage. These findings have been consistently confirmed by radiologists, physicists and technologists in over 1,500 mammography facilities. MammoPad has also been used in more than 35 million images since its market introduction in 2001.

How can MammoPad help technologists with compression?

MammoPad can actually help technologists achieve greater compression while reducing women's discomfort by half. In a clinical study conducted with more than 500 patients, technologists achieved an average of 13-15% greater compression.

How does MammoPad help positioning and tissue acquisition?

MammoPad's grip-like surface helps to immobilize the breast, making proper breast positioning easier. In addition, studies found that MammoPad, when used in conjunction with positioning training, actually helps technologists achieve 10-20% greater tissue acquisition.

Will MammoPad interfere with imaging of the chest wall?

No. In fact, many technologists find that MammoPad makes it easier to image the chest wall. MammoPad cushions patients' ribs, allowing them to lean further into the machine. Also, MammoPad provides warmth against their chests, helping their muscles to relax.

How does MammoPad affect imaging of the inframammary fold?

Technologists often report that MammoPad makes imaging the inframammary fold easier. The cushion removes pressure from the patients' ribs and chest muscles, making them less likely to pull away from the machine.

Are there reasons to use MammoPad for patients who don't complain about pain?

Yes. Women may not report their pain but still feel discomfort because of the cold, hard surface edges of the mammography machine. Without MammoPad, they may have trouble leaning in or relaxing their muscles. In addition, MammoPad's grip-like surface holds the breast in place for optimal positioning and tissue acquisition of all patients, resulting in the best possible exam regardless of discomfort. Finally, using MammoPad shows your patients you care about their mammography experience and paves the way for better breast health and patient satisfaction.

Does MammoPad need to be included when performing phantom and dose QC tests?

According to the MQSA's Policy Guidance Health System, centers who use the breast cushion for a majority of their patients must include it when performing the phantom and dose QC tests in order to simulate the typical clinical conditions as closely as possible (21 CFR 900.12(e)(2)).



A technologist prepares to do a mammogram on a Selenia® digital mammography system with a MammoPad breast cushion.

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